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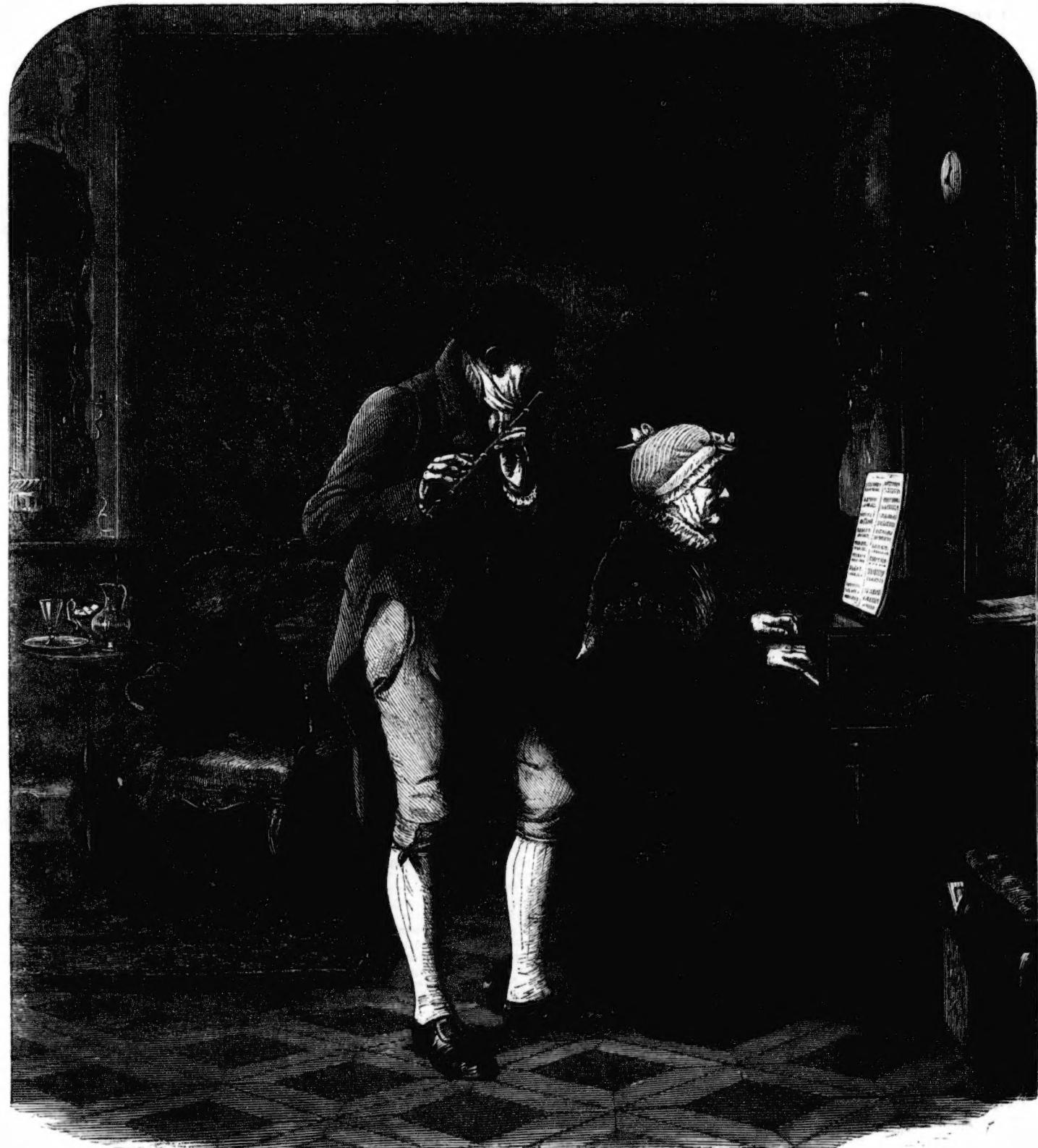
PRICE 3D.

THE TREATY OF WASHINGTON.

We doubt whether anyone in this country who has studied the subject be quite satisfied with the Treaty lately concluded at Washington; and yet we believe the feeling of most Englishmen will be, that it is a good job it has been concluded. That sounds a little contradictory; but if we consider the facts, it will be found not to be so. The matter on hand was not so much making a bargain, or securing

advantages, as getting rid of a disagreeable quarrel. To secure that object was worth making some concessions; and accordingly some concessions have had to be made. Without admitting that we, in any essential particular, failed in our duty to the United States during their civil war, we know that it is nevertheless true that the Americans thought we had done so, and that a feeling of soreness rankled in their minds in consequence. This chronic grudge might

at any moment have broken out into active hostility, and that, of course, at a time least convenient to us. To heal the wound was therefore worth a plaster; and, a plaster having been applied, it is to be hoped that the trouble is for ever at an end. We have expressed our regret for what happened, and we have entered into engagements calculated to prevent the escape of future Alabamas from the ports of both countries, and, moreover, laid the founda-



"VERY MUCH TO THE POINT."—(PICTURE BY B. BAUTIER.)

tion of an important principle of international law which is likely in the future to operate most decidedly to our advantage. The new rules agreed to are:—First, that a neutral Government is bound to prevent the fitting out, arming, or equipping within its jurisdiction of any vessel which it has reasonable ground to believe is intended to cruise against a Power with which it is at peace; second, not to permit either belligerent to make use of its ports or waters as the base of naval operations against the other, or for the purpose of the renewal or augmentation of the supplies of arms or men; and, third, that it must use due diligence to prevent the infraction of these obligations. Now, as our commerce is the most extensive in the world, and is likely to continue so for a long time to come, it is of importance that as many safeguards should be provided for it as possible; and as, moreover, the Americans have peculiar facilities for fitting out cruisers, which might seriously cripple our trade in the event of war breaking out between us and any other maritime Power—and there are few, if any, Powers nowadays that are not more or less maritime—much is gained when American citizens are precluded from ever using those facilities to our detriment. These advantages are secured by the new rules; and it is no real objection to them that they are likely to operate beneficially for the Americans as well as for us, because mutual advantage is essential to a fair bargain. The second condition is a little ambiguous at first sight, for its terms might be stretched so as to forbid all trade in arms and munitions of war whenever hostilities were in progress in any quarter of the world; but it appears that no such latitude of interpretation is intended; and, indeed, it is not likely that the United States would agree to such interpretation, seeing that their statesmen have always contended, and do still contend, for perfect freedom of trade in war material if carried on in its ordinary course and in the usual way. The restriction is only to apply to acts done for the service of a vessel engaged in warfare—such as arming or rearming, granting supplies of ammunition, &c., in neutral ports—and not to arms or military supplies exported for the use of a belligerent in the ordinary course of commerce. It is well that this explanation of the clause has been given; but it would have been better had the language employed been so definite as to render explanations unnecessary.

There are two elements in the Treaty, however, which cannot be dismissed so easily. The first of these is that in virtue of which the above rules are made to have a retrospective action; the second is the way in which Canada has fared in the negotiations. On the first point there is this to be said, that it is in effect an *ex post facto* law so far as the Alabama and her consorts are concerned, and that all *ex post facto* laws are objectionable. As no man ought to be arraigned under a law enacted subsequent to the perpetration of his alleged crime, so no nation should be called upon to make good damage resulting from deeds against which no prohibition existed at the time they were done. But, on the other hand, it may sometimes be politic for a nation to submit to a certain measure of retrospective liability in order to secure future immunity; and that is exactly the case here; and in this fact consists the best—and, so far as we are aware, the only—justification of the retrospective action of the new rules. The advantage gained in the future is worth the liability incurred for the past; and that is the sum and substance of the matter.

As regards Canada, it seems to us that the colony has scarcely had fair treatment, though we doubt if it be worth her while to make any fuss about the business. She has two grounds of complaint—first, that no compensation has been awarded her for the damage done by the Fenian raiders. This, it seems to us, is a real grievance. Canadian claims should have been referred to arbitration along with the Alabama claims. If Great Britain is to pay for damage done on the high seas by any or all of the Confederate cruisers, on the ground that sufficient diligence was not exercised in preventing the escape of some of said cruisers from our ports, it is surely only fair that the United States should make good the damage, as far as that can be done, inflicted upon the Canadians by the Fenians who, from lack of sufficient diligence on the part of United States officials, were permitted to cross the frontier. Whether we do pay or not for the depredations of the Alabama will of course depend upon the award of the arbitrators appointed under the Treaty; but if there be ground for referring the one set of claims, there is ground for referring the other. We do not wonder, therefore, that the Canadians should feel that on this point they have received but scant justice, or rather no justice at all. The only consideration that can weigh with an impartial mind on this head is, whether, seeing the injury inflicted by the Fenians was, after all, relatively slight, it be worth while disturbing the general settlement on account of it.

The second grievance of the British subjects in North America is in regard to the fisheries, and here we think they are more alarmed than they need be. Putting all questions touching rights granted by old treaties on one side, it may be doubted whether the privileges conceded to citizens of the United States to fish in British American waters and cure their fish on the adjacent shores are not likely to be beneficial rather than detrimental to the people of the Dominion; and, were it not that there are everywhere great jealousy and sensitiveness in regard to fishery rights, there would probably have been no dispute about those on the shores of her Majesty's American dominions. A little consideration and a brief experience of the common working of the fishing-grounds will probably dissipate all feeling in the matter. There must be fish enough in those seas for

all parties, and the stations of the Yankees on the coasts and their trading for supplies in the ports will be pretty sure to bring so much grist to the Canadian mill—in other words, so much profit to the Canadians—as ere long to disarm their prejudices and overcome their opposition. They can lose little, and they may gain much, by free intercourse with the men of the States and the presence of the latter on the coasts and in the ports of the Dominion; and we have no doubt that the Canadians will by and by come to perceive that their true interests will be best promoted by free intercourse rather than by monopoly—by encouraging rather than by repelling the visits and traffic of their neighbours.

On the whole, then, after reviewing the main features of the Treaty, we come back to the conclusion with which we set out—that, though the settlement is not in all respects satisfactory, though the Americans have perhaps obtained more than they have conceded, it is better than no settlement at all; and that though slight scars may remain, they are infinitely preferable to open wounds.

“VERY MUCH TO THE POINT.”

Our readers will remember that a few weeks ago we published a picture by M. B. Bautier, which was entitled “Not at all to the Point.” There the bashful maiden of sweet seventeen, indifferent to the emphatic lesson which her learned guardian was delivering from the volume held up close to his spectacled nose, listened in divided attention to the dulcet notes of a flute, played by a sentimental swain at an opposite window. We said in our remarks on that picture that the rest of the story would appear one day; and that the duller lesson of the old bookworm would prove to have been mere dry bones, while the lesson of love interpreted by a flute would live to the end. Behold our Artist's appreciation of the fitness of things! The music of a lifetime has had few jarring notes; and in the period of that golden wedding which unites the loves of youth to the confidence of age, the flute still plays; while the hands that are yet soft and white find responsive notes on the old harpsichord, that seems to have caught a mellow tone from recollections of the past.

THE FRANCO-GERMAN WAR FUNDS AND OUR ORDINARY CHARITIES.

MR. HERBERT FRY, in his annual preface to the “Royal Guide to the London Charities” for 1871-2 reports:—

The disastrous effects of the Franco-German war may be traced in many of the returns made me this year by some of the most important London charities. That terrible calamity has doubtless affected this nation injuriously in many respects; but it is most remarkable for having elicited an active sympathy from England towards the sick and disabled combatants, as well as towards the inhabitants of the districts the war-field traversed, which must be pronounced altogether without precedent in the history of the world. England's gifts to France during her time of disaster and distress will, it is believed, infinitely better show our *entente cordiale* than any display we could make as brothers-in-arms upon the Crimean or any other battle-fields. Anyhow, it will not be out of place in this little manual to record how, in the year of grace 1870-1, British benevolence rushed to the assistance of the sick and wounded, and to the succour of the helpless and poverty-stricken people deprived by war of their ordinary means of support. Even as indicating the influence at work to diminish the incomes of ordinary charities, the list will not be out of place here. I can furnish by no means a complete statement of all that England has subscribed, for there were many indirect and quasi-private endeavours beyond public cognisance; but the following are the chief of the Franco-German war funds:—

National Society for Aid to Sick and Wounded, 2, St. Martin's-place, W.C.	nearly £300,000
Mansion House Relief Fund for Non-Combatants, Joseph Gibbs, Esq., Hon. Secretary	125,920
Daily News French Peasants' Relief Fund, W. H. Bullock, Esq., Club Distributor	21,679
Refugees' Benevolent Fund, Francis Bennoch, Esq., Hon. Secretary	19,428
French Peasant Farmers' Seed Fund (after deducting £13,000 voted from Mansion House Fund)	29,661
War Victims' Fund, 86, Houndsditch, E.C. (exclusive of £14,000 from America and Canada, £1000 from Mansion House, and £750 from Seed Fund)	69,931
German Association in Aid of Wounded and Destitute, Baron Schröder, President	40,968
Souscription Française en Angleterre, M. Paul Pierrard, Hon. Secetary	6,083
French Evangelical Society of Relief, Rev. J. M. H. du Pontet de La Harpe	6,000
French Wounded Fund, Dr. Plessé	4,964
Society for Clothing French Prisoners, 219, Regent-street, T. W. Evans, Esq., M.D., Hon. Secretary	2,000
Colonial and Continental Church Society's Aid	683
	£627,317

The above figures will account for the falling off, wherever it is to be observed, in the receipts of London charities; for although many a pound was doubtless subscribed to the war funds by persons who do not regularly support our home institutions, and much money was collected for the former in the provinces, yet it is true that there is only a portion of the British public educated to regularly subscribing for charitable purposes, and that for the most part it is from the pockets of these that all benefactions come. Many subscribers cannot afford to enlarge their gifts; so when calamities, such as the late war, arise, they but transfer their guineas from the ordinary to the extraordinary claimants. Looking at the returns made me by the London charities for the past year and at the amount of the war subscriptions, the wonder is not that the former have suffered, but that they have not suffered more.

In relation to the tendency of home charity during the past year—for every year is characterised by some predominant preference—I note that new efforts seem chiefly directed to the very commendable work of helping the poor by means of emigration to help themselves; to the repression of mendicity; to the restoration of the sick by means of convalescent homes; and to the establishment of infant nurseries for the care of infants whilst their mothers are at work. The smallpox epidemic has led to the institution of several homes, besides those provided by the poor-law authorities, for the reception of smallpox patients. The opening of the new buildings at Lambeth, opposite the Houses of Parliament, for St. Thomas's Hospital, is one of the events of the year 1871, which should also be recorded here.

A SCANDAL AT SOUTH KENSINGTON.—Scarcely has the hubbub created by the War Office scandal subsided, when a fresh and more disgraceful misappropriation of public money is brought to light at South Kensington. In the hope of persuading Parliament to swallow without too much contention the large demands of Mr. Cole, C.B., for the advancement of Science and Art, a note was appended to the Estimates stating that a sum amounting to £8200 would be paid into the Exchequer from various sources in diminution of the charge on the public. In his report on the appropriation of the grant for the year 1869-70, the Comptroller and Auditor-General called attention to the fact that of these estimated assets only £821 was actually paid into the Exchequer, and this not until nine months after the expiration of the account. The suspicions then aroused by Sir William D'Anbar's report have, we regret to say, been more than confirmed. The Treasury, acting on the hint received from the Audit Office, ordered an inquiry into the alleged defalcations, and we learn that upwards of £7000 remains in the hands of the late Accountant to the Department still unaccounted for.—*Daily News*.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

It is proposed by the Minister of Finance to impose new taxes amounting to 463 millions of francs. Of these 200 millions will be raised by increasing the duty on the raw material of textile fabrics; 60 millions by stamps; 90 millions by intoxicating liquors; 50 millions by sugar and coffee, and the rest by other means. The proposal of the Government to raise twenty-four millions sterling per annum from the consumers has not been favourably received by the Parisians. The city remains tranquil, and is at present healthy, but there is fear of a pestilence if some safe and early steps are not taken for the proper interment of the numerous dead bodies lying half buried in and around the town. The announcement that the Assembly will review the Army of Paris in the Champ de Mars, on Sunday, has given much satisfaction. A letter from Paris mentions that whereas a couple of months ago a man, if taken for a German, was in danger of his life, it is now far worse to be thought a Communist than a Prussian. Numbers of Prussian officers visit the city every day, and no one thinks of disturbing them. Indeed, the people are disposed to jeer at any ostentatious display of hostility to the Germans, and seem to have forgotten the hatred they entertained towards them before the late insurrection.

Summary executions in Paris have not yet ceased. In the Faubourg St. Antoine they are said to be of almost daily occurrence. The traces of the late struggle there are disappearing with astonishing rapidity. The great thoroughfares are now better watered and swept than those of London; the paving-stones are nearly all laid down again, and the street lamps are being restored. Meanwhile the prices of the restaurants have gone up about 25 per cent since last year, though the articles themselves, so far from improving, have deteriorated in quality.

The elections for the 112 vacant seats in the French Assembly will take place on Sunday, July 2. It had previously been stated that they would be held a week later—viz., on Sunday, July 9. The importance of these supplementary elections, by which the position of parties in the Assembly may be completely changed, is discussed in most of the Paris papers.

It is calculated that 70,000 travellers entered Paris between Sunday and Tuesday by the Northern line alone. Many had to travel in luggage-vans. Paris, notwithstanding, does not appear full. Most of the visitors make a very short stay. The dual condition of trade is loudly complained of.

The well-known comic paper, the *Charivari*, which was compelled to suspend its publication during the late insurrection in Paris, has now reappeared, and with it other French journals of the same character. The electoral movement is becoming very marked in the provinces. In the Department of the Ain, M. Vuitry has been asked to stand. In the Bouches du Rhône M. About is spoken of as a candidate. M. Clemont Duvernois will come forward in the Hautes Alpes, M. Magne in the Dordogne, and M. Dugue Fanconnerie in the Orne. In the department of the Seine et Oise the Republicans propose to bring forward M. Edmond Scherer, Labelouye de Jourvenal, and Desnarets. In the Seine Inférieure the success of the Conservative Republican list appears certain. In Paris it is proposed to nominate General Ulrich and Messrs. Duprat, Laurier, Mottu, Bonvalet, Haussmann, Wolowski, and Sebert.

The Orleans Princes were present on Monday night at the reception of M. Thiers.

In Monday's sitting of the Assembly a letter from the Prince de Joinville was read announcing that of the two departments by which he has been returned he should represent the Haute Marne. On this letter being read there was a buzz in the Assembly, and members asked each other when and in what form the Princes would fulfil their promise to M. Thiers, and resign their seats.

Among the petitions presented to the Assembly last Saturday several were specially directed against the Bonaparte family. One prayed that the authors of the Coup-d'Etat should be prosecuted; another that the Judges who had assisted in carrying it out should be proceeded against; a third, that Louis Napoleon should be impeached and tried; a fourth, that the ex-Emperor and his family should be declared to have for ever forfeited their nationality, and that an inquiry should be made into the causes which led to the war with Prussia; and a fifth, that the name of Louis Napoleon should be struck off the roll of members of the Legion of Honour. None of the petitions were taken into consideration.

It is believed to be quite settled that M. Jules Favre is shortly to resign his post as Minister of Foreign Affairs, and be appointed First President of the Court of Cassation. M. Picard has already resigned office as Governor of the Bank of France. He was appointed to the post as recently as Wednesday week.

SPAIN.

Senor Moret, at a sitting of the Financial Committee, has proposed that the provisions of the last Budget shall be continued, the Minister of Finance undertaking at the same time to save 441 millions of reals. He proposed to increase the new taxes, except those on liquors, and to authorise the municipalities to raise what taxation they may consider desirable, the Government to receive 30 per cent.

The *Imparcial* states that the following are the bases agreed upon in principle for the fusion of the Spanish Bourbons—viz., the Duke of Montpensier to be Regent during the minority of the Infant Alfonso, and the Constitution of 1845 to be modified in a liberal sense.

ITALY.

A circular has been issued by the Italian Government announcing that the official transfer of the capital from Florence to Rome will take place on July 1.

GERMANY.

A letter of congratulation has been sent by the Emperor of Germany to the Pope on his jubilee.

Immense preparations have been made in Berlin for the triumphal entry of the troops, which was to take place yesterday (Friday, June 16).

Bills granting pensions to the officers and soldiers engaged in the war and for providing assistance to the relatives of the service and landwehr called out have been passed by the German Parliament.

A Royal ordinance has been issued, countersigned by the Prussian Ministers, whereby the Bank of Prussia is authorised to establish agencies for making advances of money to the inhabitants of Alsace and Lorraine.

AUSTRIA.

General Baron von Gablenz has gone to Berlin with an autograph letter from the Emperor Francis Joseph to the Emperor of Germany, on the occasion of the triumphal entry into Berlin and the unveiling of the statue of Frederick William III., at which ceremonies General von Gablenz was to be present.

ROUMANIA.

The Roumanian Chamber has voted the address to the Throne in reply to the opening speech of Prince Charles. In their address loyalty and submission to the Throne are expressed, and a promise is given to support the present Government.

GREECE.

The Queen has taken the oaths as Regent, and the King has gone on a tour in the West of Europe. The Chamber, before the close of the Session, passed a vote expressive of sympathy with France on account of the late civil war. The President of the Ministry informed the Chamber that Turkey was contributing with great vigour towards the suppression of brigandage, which is now nearly extirpated.

BRAZIL.

A bill has been presented to the Brazilian Chambers by the Government for emancipating the slaves. An indemnity is to be

paid by the State for those who belong to private persons. The bill has been strongly opposed by the Chamber.

CANADA.

Mr. Langevin, a member of the Cabinet, has delivered a speech at Quebec, in which he declared that the Canadian Government had energetically protested to the Imperial Government against the fishery clauses contained in the Treaty of Washington. He stated that the British Government had replied that the interests of the empire required the High Joint Commissioners to agree that the right of Canada to reject the clauses affecting her should be reserved, and added that the Canadian Government was perfectly free and untrammelled. A majority of at least twenty votes in favour of the confirmation of that part of the Treaty of Washington which deals with the fisheries question is expected in the Parliament of the Canadian Dominion.

LITERARY, SCIENTIFIC, AND ARTISTIC COMMUNISTS.

THE late Commune of Paris contained in its body, and had also in the ranks of its sympathisers, a considerable number of physicians and many writers for the press. Singularly enough, it happens that very few of these have as yet undoubtedly been shot. Many are prisoners; but still more are either hiding or have been killed without recognition. We have already noticed the death of Gustave Flourens, and recorded that of Gustave Courbet, the painter; although there is some little uncertainty as to whether the latter is indeed dead. By far the best-authenticated story of his fate is that which represents him as having died, at Satory, of poison, administered by his own hand. It has not been stated in any of the papers, so far as we have seen, that Courbet refused the cross of the Legion of Honour, under the Empire. As to the death of Cluseret, there is considerable doubt; but, inasmuch as the French Government distinctly state that he was killed in the Prince Eugène Barracks, it is our duty to inform our readers of his title to notice in our columns. In 1869 he published a work called "Armee et Démocratie," the best work on the Swiss military system of which we know. It happens, singularly enough, to be dedicated to M. Pelletan, one of the members of the Government of the 4th of September, of which General Cluseret was the most dreaded foe. Some have supposed that Cluseret had no title to the rank of General. This is a mistake. While he served on Sherman's staff he had the rank of Colonel; but he was afterwards made a Brigadier-General in the American service, although he never, so far as we know, held an independent command. His book is exceedingly well worth reading at the present time. It was published by the Librairie Internationale at Paris. Delescluze, the real leader of the insurrection and King of the Democracy of Paris, as he was called, was a journalist of some note, and had of late been chief editor of the *Reveil*. We believe him to have been a pure-minded man, and he is reputed to have been an excellent brother to his sister and son to his mother, they being dependent on him. He was Mayor of La Villette during the siege. We next have to notice a man of a very different type—Eugène Vermersch, better known as Père Duchesne. Of him we will only say that he was a Belgian by birth, and that he appears to have deserved his evil notoriety. Delescluze died fighting; but Vermersch surrendered, and was shot in cold blood. Charles Ferdinand Gambon appears to have been shot without trial, although he was one of those members of the Commune who resigned a month ago. He was a journalist in his earlier years, and founded and edited *Les Ecales*. He was the hero of the famous comedy of "Gambon's Cow," now turned into tragedy by his death. He refused, as will be remembered, to pay his taxes under the Empire, and the result was the seizure of the historic cow. His father was a Swiss, who emigrated to Bourges, and was, like his son, a strong Republican, although a wealthy man. Charles Ferdinand Gambon was what we should call a county Court Judge, but was condemned under Louis Philippe to five years' suspension from his functions for presiding at a Republican meeting. He was a member of the Assembly in 1848, but was exiled at the coup-d'état. He during the last few years has been engaged in working out the idea of co-operation in agriculture. Millière, one of the members of the Assembly who resigned their seats, but not a member of the Commune, although most famous as an orator, was also a journalist, having been director of the *Marseillaise*. He was shot in cold blood, and died very bravely. Vermorel, who has died of his wounds, was also a journalist, and edited the works of Robespierre. Raoul Rigault completes our list of the journalists at present known to have been killed. He was not one of those for whom it is possible to feel much pity; but it is worthy of remark that the only reason for shooting him seems to have been that, after he had allowed himself to be quietly arrested, he cried out "Vive la Commune!" Pilat, who was Director of Fine Arts under the Commune for a few weeks, but who was removed from his post for incompetency, has been shot; but we are not aware of his title to be treated as an artist; and we are hardly able to describe Billioray as a "musician" in our sense, although he played his humble instrument with much taste. It is to be remembered, to his credit, that he opposed the suppression of the newspapers by the Commune. Of the many physicians and surgeons who were members of the Commune and of the Central Committee, we have only heard of two as dead. Parisi and Miot, both taken prisoners and shot without trial. Jules Miot was a member of the Assembly in 1848, and was transported at the coup-d'état to Oran. He refused the amnesty, and remained at Algiers, but afterwards lived at Brussels, where we believe that he again began to practise as a physician. A great number of press-men are among the prisoners. Gustave Maroteau, editor of the *Salut Public*; Barbier, director of the *Rappel*; Paul Meurice, of the same paper; Troubat, of the *Vengeur*, who was formerly secretary to Ste. Beuve, also of the *Rappel*; Odysse Barot, of the *Fédéraliste*; Charles Lockroy; Henri Bochefer; Elysée Reclus, of the *Revue des Deux Mondes*; Pascal Grusset; Floquet, of the *Siecle*; Ulysse Parent; Rogard, of the *Vengeur*, author of the famous "Propos du Labéon"; and Blanqui. Among the prisoners we must also mention Benjamin Gastineau, custodian of the Mazarin Library under the Commune; and Nadar, the photographer and aeronaut. Among the insurgents who seem to have escaped are also many press-men, artists, and physicians. For instance, Félix Pyat, of the *Vengeur*; Longuet, who edited the *Official Journal* under the Commune; Dr. Goupil, a medical writer; Elie Reclus; Arthur Arnould; Arnold, the architect; Dr. Pillot; Lissagray, editor of *L'Action*; Verdure, of the *Marseillaise*, and father of Marie Verdure, who wrote that very able production of the Commune, known as "The Women's Address"; Charles Beslay, the civil engineer; and Emile Lebeau.—*Athenaeum*.

THE FRENCH ASSEMBLY AND THE BOURBONS.

THE hall of the National Assembly presented a crowded and animated appearance, on the 8th inst., in anticipation of the debate upon the abrogation of the laws exiling the Orleans Princes.

M. Batrie brought up the report of the Committee.

M. Thiers then ascended the tribune, and said he never before found himself faced by so difficult a question. He explained the perplexity of his position, and showed that the subject under discussion was a political question, and would be so considered by the country. He said the Assembly ought to decide upon the question, not only conscientiously, but also with a full knowledge of the facts. M. Thiers then proceeded to explain why he was at first opposed to the abrogation of the law of proscription, and why he subsequently assented to the bill. He described the state of the country, and said:—"We have just put an end to one of the greatest civil wars ever waged. We have obtained one of the greatest victories ever achieved. Europe thanks us and congratulates us on our victory, for we have saved the whole Continent from anarchy. Our position has completely changed from what it was a month ago. Our defeats are forgotten; our victory alone is remembered. At the same time, we must not delude ourselves; the insurrection is disarmed, but not appeased. The excitement is still great in the public mind, and we must avoid providing fresh material for feeding the popular passions. It is requisite that work should be resumed. Let me remind the Assembly that one of the great weapons which the Commune employed was the assertion that the Republic was in danger. Prudence, therefore, requires that no pretext for such a supposition should be furnished by us. We must imbue the country with confidence in our wisdom and our unity of purpose. Labour is ready to start once more into activity; large trading orders are everywhere forthcoming, but the great capitalists are carefully watching the action of the Assembly, anxious to know whether it will remain united. If we inspire them with confidence we shall be able to meet all our requirements." M. Thiers then entered into some details to show the immense burdens weighing upon France, demonstrating that the first thing necessary was to obtain the evacuation of French territory by the Germans. He pointed out the great humiliation and the costly character of the foreign occupation, and said, "We have to feed 500,000 Germans. When the indemnity is paid we shall be able to collect the taxes in the invaded departments. We have a deficiency of 400,000,000 in the revenue derived from taxation. It is necessary that the Assembly should be made acquainted with these details, in order thoroughly to understand the position of the country. The consequence of this state of things is that we must have recourse to credit, and to do so we require the confidence of Europe. No one doubts the resources of France, but it is feared that our union will fail." M. Thiers expressed great respect for the Bourbon family, but added:—"You think you are doing a great act of generosity; you are doing something quite different. The laws it is proposed to abrogate are not laws of proscription, but laws of precaution. Two Governments cannot coexist upon the same soil. I blamed the Republicans in 1848 for abrogating the laws of proscription. I said then to Louis Napoleon, 'These imprudent Republicans have recalled you; you will be their master; mine you shall not be.' M. Thiers professed great friendship for the family of Orleans; but declared that his friendship for his country was superior to all others—a declaration which was loudly cheered by the Assembly—and he added:—"We have won a material victory; we shall gain a moral triumph by our prudence." The Chief of the Executive went on to speak of the pact entered into at Bordeaux. He defended the revolution of Sept. 4, and said:—"It is the fashion now to attack the revolution; but people forget that they wished for it, and they do not remember the services it has rendered. The men of Sept. 4 were wrong in wishing to continue the war; but the fault was not committed in Paris, which was bound to close its gates against the enemy, but outside Paris, by men in power, who carried on a policy of furious madmen—a senseless policy, which substituted the action of a few for the authority of France." M. Thiers explained that in the pact of Bordeaux the Assembly sought to free France from despots who were endeavouring to keep her in their own hands. But it was not intended to overthrow the Republic. "We received," he said, "from the Assembly a de facto government, and it is our task to restore order and the credit of the nation. I am not the most powerful man in France, but I have the greatest responsibility, and I wish to fulfil my duty loyally." M. Thiers then explained how it was that he was a Republican. He said that for forty years he had striven to procure for France a Constitutional Monarchy such as exists in England, and declared that he found greater liberty existing in London than in Washington; but the French Princes had not always understood the conditions of this movement. They ought to comprehend that a Constitutional Monarchy is in substance a Republic, of which the President is hereditary. M. Thiers deplored the immense misfortunes attending revolutions, and added:—"France will rise again if we are wise, but it is necessary that we should be thoroughly wise in consequence of our actual position, as we are no more allowed to commit errors." He recalled the fact that it had been decided at Bordeaux to put aside all questions which could have divided the country, and further said:—"I have accepted the Republic as a deposit, and I will not betray the trust. The future does not concern me; I merely look at the present. I serve no party, and in the choice of the Generals I never considered their political opinions, but the interest of the country." M. Thiers highly praised the army, stating that he loved the soldiers as his own children, a declaration which was received with unanimous cheering. M. Thiers then related that all the cities of France had sent deputations to complain that the National Assembly wished to do away with the Republic. "I replied that it was false, and I praised the Assembly, adding that the deputations were unjust, and that the Assembly was more Liberal than myself. A certain number of its members who entertained monarchical opinions have had the wisdom of restraining their preferences. I told them that it was not the Assembly that threatened the Republic, but themselves. 'Do nothing,' I added, 'that might incite scoundrels, and you will render a greater service to the cause of the Republic.' The deputations replied:—'We believe in your honesty, but after the victory you will not have the same control over the Assembly.' I retorted that I thought the Assembly would continue to have the same confidence in me, but that I should resign in case the safety of the Republic should be threatened. In so doing I have quieted their apprehensions, which, had they broken out, would have been a cause of great danger; and, had I not made those replies, the tranquillity of the provinces might have been disturbed. I hope the Assembly will approve my conduct; but if I have gone too far, I shall be alone compromised. If you wish to hasten a solution, you might throw France into an immediate and terrible civil war. My duty is to make the truce last as long as possible, and to transform it, if possible, into a perpetual peace, as I feel confident that the rupture of that truce would bring about great misfortunes. I do not desire to discuss the possibility of a Monarchy at some future time; but, in order that it should be durable, it is necessary that it should not be said that the Republic has not had a fair trial." M. Thiers then said that the conduct of the Republican party during the late events had been honourable and worthy of praise, and he called upon the Assembly to be united. He went on to relate how he thought he could, without being inconsistent with his honesty, propose the abrogation of the laws of proscription, the Orleans Princes having pledged themselves not to take their seats in the Assembly, so as not to justify the fears which had been entertained. He said that, in consequence of the promise, he adhered to the views of the committee; but he added that, in case his hope was mislaid, he would take such measures as he believed advisable, and would afterwards come before the Assembly to ask its

sanction. M. Thiers concluded his speech as follows:—"I shall remain in power if you have the same confidence in me, and you think me worthy of it, and, I repeat, I will deceive no one."

M. Ducarre, on behalf of the Left Party, explained the reason why his friends and himself would vote against the conclusion of M. Thiers, to whom, however, they would continue their support. He regretted the disorders which had taken place in Paris, as well as the bill before the House, whose misconstruction, especially in those departments which have the least suffered from the effects of the war, might have the most deplorable consequences.

The amendment of M. Barthe-Billot, to the effect that the Orleans Princes should only return to France after the vote of the Constitution, was then rejected by 429 votes against 168, and the bill abrogating the laws of proscription was adopted by 481 votes against 103.

The elections of the Duc d'Aumale and Prince de Joinville were subsequently declared valid by 418 against 113.

COMPULSORY CITIZEN SERVICE A FAILURE.

At the present time, when so much is said about the "admirable" system of compulsory citizen service, adopted in Prussia, Switzerland, and the Channel Islands, it is a wise course to look a little into the real nature of this laudable system, and to consider what its adoption involves. In Prussia it has not only aided an ambitious foreign policy but has been made subservient to the prostration of the Prussian and German liberties, to a large extent, under the feet of Bismarck and an arbitrary Court. Through it the Prussians may almost be said to have been compelled to cut their own throats, so far as their social and civil reforms and their private liberties are concerned. In Switzerland it has produced a most venal body of men, whose arms have been placed at the disposal of the highest bidder and for the most despotic of purposes. And in the Channel Islands it has handed over British subjects to the insolence and cruelty of military martinetts, and has led to the persecution and imprisonment of some of the most respectable inhabitants of those islands. Yet the *Broad Arrow* (military organ) recently said, "If this system could be applied to England, what an advantage it would be!" An able reply to this ignorant assertion has been furnished by Captain John Sullivan, of the Jersey Militia (unattached), and notary public in the island, in a pamphlet entitled "The Channel Islands Militia." Mr. Sullivan shows, and brings a number of persons to confirm his testimony, that the Channel Islands system of compulsory service in time of peace, by which all the male inhabitants between the ages of sixteen and sixty-five are obliged to submit themselves for twelve days per annum to military drill, is iniquitous and oppressive. It is also, indirectly, as expensive as other forms of service, although it nominally involves merely a cost of £10 per annum for a soldiership. The results of this "admirable" plan have been most un-English; and may Englishmen not become such tools as to adopt it! however much a clamorous mob of promotion-watchers, armourers, and paid claqueurs may belaud it in Parliament or through the press. In the Channel Islands it has led to severe persecutions of Wesleyans and others, who refused to be drilled on Sunday, and were in consequence imprisoned, and in many cases driven into banishment. Several thousand men in Jersey have recently petitioned the home Government to liberate them from their "serfdom." Serfdom it is. Large public meetings have also been held in promotion of "emancipation." Legally, all the male population are called upon to serve, and with no option of procuring substitutes. But in the Channel Islands, as elsewhere, "money answereth all things;" and accordingly it is found that, on one pretext or another, the wealthier portions of the inhabitants are permitted to elude the law. Hence, Jersey petitioners, in 1870, complained—"Had the law been enforced, the number of men serving in the town battalion would have amounted to at least 2000, whereas it is only composed of about 600 men belonging to the humble classes of society, who can bear the burden no longer." This should be a further warning to Englishmen; for one of the common eulogies bestowed upon compulsory citizen service is that it is "so fair to all classes." So it seems in Jersey.—*Communicated.*

BRITISH COLUMBIA will be formally united with Canada on the 20th inst.

THE WAR-RELIC TRADE IN PARIS.—Among the curiosities of Paris at the present moment must certainly be ranked the shells on sale, exploded and unexploded. At first shells were sold in the rough and good prices given for mere éclats, or splinters. But the Parisian has a horror of anything *au naturel*, and cannot allow shells, any more than beauty, to go unadorned. So now there is an ingenious man on the Boulevard des Italiens who has made shells his speciality. He has got cones of shells as inkstands—and very solid ones they make, too—whole shells (spitfire lead-coated Prussian four-poundsers) made into tobacco-boxes; broken pieces cleaned and polished, a little too much so to look genuine, and made into paper-weights. One huge Krupp shell has been cut so as to take drawers in it for pens, pencils, &c.; whilst another has been tilted on one side and shows a clock set into the hollow for the powder. These are only a few of the ingenious devices for making shells useful, if not ornamental, which may be seen in Paris; and there is at least one comfort for the inexperienced in purchasing this kind of relic—namely, that they run little danger of having a supposititious article palmed off on them, seeing that the supply of shells, burst and unburst, in Paris is likely to be sufficient for almost any possible demand. As much cannot be said of the photographs of the leaders of the Commune, which daily attract crowds of passers-by, in all the print-shops. Many of these portraits are purely fanciful. There is one of Dombrowski, in particular, which is not even bad likeness of the late General of the Army of Paris. In the papers the other day there appeared a letter from a lawyer complaining that his photograph is being sold as that of a prominent member of the Commune, and that he by no means appreciates the joke, as he is in continual fear of arrest in consequence.

THE INTERNATIONAL.

THE special correspondent of the *Times* in Paris, in a recent letter, says that the Parisians seem to derive some consolation from the fact that they have been the means of unmasking the International. The writer proceeds:—"I have before me an elaborate account of this society, from which it would appear that, although only nine years have elapsed since its foundation, it counts upwards of 2,500,000 members. But even this does not include all the affiliated societies which are assisted in their various political and revolutionary enterprises by the International, and which comprise the Fenians, the Marianne, the Brothers of the Republic of Lyons and Marseilles, the numerous secret societies of Russia and Poland, and the Carbonari generally all over Europe. The central committee of this association, which has a branch in America, is in London, and its presiding spirit is a German, who conceived the idea of organising in Berlin, in a definite and tangible form, the theories of Babeuf, Diebneck, Jacoby, Proudhon, and others. There is no president, but the central office is composed of a secretary-general and fifteen members. Each country composes a branch of the association. Each branch is divided into sections. Each important centre is subdivided into other sections, with a central bureau. Every week each central bureau sends to the London office—1, a detailed report on the political and commercial events of the neighbourhood; 2, a statement of additional members; 3, a financial statement; 4, a statement by name of the principal merchants and tradesmen; 5, a statement by name of the principal proprietors and capitalists; 6, copies of minutes of meetings held. There are, of course, many other secret rules regarding the expulsion of members and the means of pressure to be employed in cases of strikes, &c., which I have no means of obtaining; but it will appear from the above that the organisation is one conceived on a scale capable of indefinite expansion, and appealing to the sympathies of the largest and least reputable class of the community in all countries. The catastrophe of Paris, so far from operating as a check to its growth, will probably give it a powerful impetus, as, unhappily, the more infamous the notoriety of such an association becomes, the more attractive will it prove to that large section of society over whom such a celebrity exercises an irresistible fascination,

SMALLPOX AND VACCINATION.—At a meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, last Saturday, a committee which had been appointed to consider the subject of vaccination and to confer with the Vice-President of the Privy Council on the amendment of the vaccination laws so far as they affected the metropolis, reported that they had had an interview with Mr. Forster, and submitted the resolutions at which they had arrived. These were in substance that the control of vaccination in the metropolis should be placed on one uniform system, and that the powers for the whole metropolis should be vested in one body; that the registration of births should be made compulsory; that the registration of vaccination should be carried at stated short intervals with the registration of births and deaths to ascertain and follow up those who make default of vaccination; that the metropolitan vaccination authority should be responsible to one Government department only; that the central authority should be empowered to visit from house to house for the purpose of vaccinating the children of unauthorised persons and its adulteration made a punishable offence. These resolutions were unanimously adopted, and ordered to be sent to the Privy Council, with a request that they should be embodied in the bill now before Parliament for amending the vaccination laws. It was stated that the new cases of smallpox reported during the fortnight numbered 624, against 603 in the previous fortnight. The total number of deaths in the hospitals treatment was 1763.

It is to be regretted that there should also be a large class of persons with such singularly perverted notions that they conscientiously believe the reformation of humanity can only be worked out by slaughter and incendiarism on a vast scale. Such men were Delescluze, Miot, Courbet, and many others of the leaders of the late movement, one of the most sanguinary of whom—Millière, who had probably ordered the execution of more innocent persons than any of his colleagues—when he was shot, shouted with his last breath, 'Vive l'humanité.' Thus may the enthusiasm of humanity, inverted, become absolutely fatal to it. The philanthropic ideas of Lefrançais, also an honest enthusiast, took another form; he advocated the burning of all the public buildings in Paris, in order to erect in their places civil hospitals. The peculiarity of this association is, therefore, that, while it appeals to the whole working classes of the civilised world by an argument which the simplest can comprehend, and offers a refuge and support to the revolutionists of every country, it has a philosophy and a political economy of its own sufficiently specious to attract theorists and would-be reformers. It reaches the loftiest and the basest natures, those who unselfishly wish to raise others and those who selfishly desire to raise themselves at the expense of others. It embraces in its three-fold political, social, and moral character political agitators, paupers, and philosophers: a combination of forces which imparts to this organisation altogether special powers of action. As it raises its head in one country after another, we shall see how far the special conditions of political morals and society which exist in each are calculated to cope with it. There is probably no country in Europe where circumstances were so favourable to an experimental outbreak as France, where the bourgeoisie were so effete and timid, and the Government, owing to its provisional character, so feeble and irresolute. Now that the streets of Paris are beginning to fill, and its money-making, pleasure-seeking population to flock back, we are enabled to form some idea of the wholesale 'stampede' which left the capital to the mercy of a small minority of roughs. The International suddenly and unexpectedly found the occasion ready made for its action, and stepped in to direct and organise, to such good purpose that it converted what was at the outset an accidental flash-in-the-pan into a system of government capable of administering for two months an immense city and of keeping at bay the armies of an empire. The orders found upon the bodies of insurgents leave no doubt where to fix the guilt of the incendiarism. They are finding their way into print as they are coming to light, and are full of interest. I have seen the facsimile of an order signed by Parent, which runs thus:—'Incendiez le Quartier de la Bourse, ne craignez pas.' Another, signed by Delescluze, authorises Citizen Jacquet, upon whom it is found, to shoot immediately all men or women refusing to assist in the construction of barricades when ordered; also ordering him to burn all suspected houses at the first signal.'

The same correspondent, in a subsequent letter, says that "a general European subscription is being set on foot; and, as soon as funds sufficient are obtained, it is expected that the 'International' will begin operations on a large scale. A letter which has been found, from a member of the society in London to a friend here, is rather interesting, as giving some notion of its inner workings. The writer asks:—'How do you get on over there with the members? Here we can't get near the dignitaries. They wanted to send me on a mission to Paris; but what I saw of the capacity of the gentlemen there during the siege led me to decline the honour. That poor French branch is so despised here. If you only heard how it is openly talked of! All the same, one day a report from Varlin, Cluseret, and others put everyone in good spirits, and our delegates determined to go to Paris. Then came another, telling what a mess you had made of it, and how Flourens and Duval were killed; so the transmission of all funds was stopped at once, and we abandoned to their fate the unhappy Cluseret and La Cecilia. Anyhow, the one thing needful now is to let the world know we exist, and are powerful.' We are constantly receiving fuller details in regard to the organisation of this society, which has, in fact, only attained its real development and acquired a complete organisation during the last four or five years, and is still scarcely old and strong enough to enter on its proposed programme of destroying—first, all religions; second, the family tie; third, property; fourth, hereditary rights; fifth, the national tie. But the rapidity with which it is spreading and extending its organisation into all countries leads one to anticipate that the day cannot be far distant when it will boldly declare itself. We

even hear that in China and in India there is a society called 'The Fraternal Society of Heaven and Earth,' which proposes the same programme. The number of members in England is stated to be 95,000, with a capital of £1700. In America the 'National Labour Union,' which has united itself with the 'International,' numbers 800,000; but the stronghold of the society is Germany, where the adherents amount to over a million. Every day brings to light new orders, found among Communist papers, confirming the accounts of their mode of conducting the war—one signed 'Head-Quarters of the 11th Arrondissement,' with the seal of the Mairie upon it, for '500 bombes à pétrole et 50 charges'; others ordering the execution of specific individuals. As the examination of the sewers goes on, insurgents are discovered who have taken refuge in them with whatever food they could take with them—sometimes in an emaciated condition, sometimes their wasted forms alone remain, half eaten by rats.'

An address has been published, in both Paris and London, from the General Council of the "International" to all the members

ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE FRENCH CIVIL WAR.

REFRACTORY NATIONAL GUARDS ESCAPING.

It may be necessary, perhaps, to explain what is meant by "refractory National Guards." This name, then, was applied to those members of the Paris National Guard who either did not approve of the Commune or were averse to risking their lives in fighting for it. These "refractories" are said to have been very numerous; and, though all did not dare to avow their disinclination for the work demanded of them, they performed their duty of thinking left the city; but when the Commune came to be hard pressed, and to have need of all the soldiers it could muster, permission to depart was rigidly refused, and those caught in making the attempt were subjected to grave danger, if not, in some instances, actually shot as deserters, though few, if any, well-authenticated instances of this have been reported. Departure by the ordinary channels being forbidden, indirect means of escape were had recourse to. Some men made their way out dressed as women, some as priests, some on the plea that they were foreigners, and some lowered themselves from the walls in the manner shown in our Engraving.

ARRIVAL OF CAPTURED CANNONS AT VERSAILLES.

The actors in the scenes depicted in our next Engraving deemed the event an occasion for festivity, but to our mind it was one of the saddest of the many sad incidents France has lately witnessed. The arrival of the guns captured from the insurgents at Fort Issy was made the excuse for a triumphal festival in Versailles; the cannon themselves and the horses which drew them were decked with flowers and evergreens; crowds assembled on the line of march, waved their hats, and shouted both loud and long; the weapons were parked in front of the palace as they arrived; troops were mustered as at a review;—and yet all this was only to celebrate the victory of one set of Frenchmen over another set of Frenchmen: a consideration which—did Frenchmen ever stop to consider such matters—ought to have made them weep rather than rejoice. The rejoicing, however, took place, unseemly as we may be inclined to think it, and our Illustration shows how enthusiastic—apparently, at least—it was. The words Shakespeare puts into the mouth of the Roman Tribune on a like occasion irresistibly occur to the mind when thinking of this affair. We need not quote the passage, which occurs in the opening scene of "Julius Caesar," as it must be familiar to most readers. To put down a civil war may be a necessary duty, though it must ever be a painful one; but to make a jubilation over thefeat, is neither necessary nor becoming. Had the cannon paraded so ostentatiously been trophies of victory over foreign enemies, the case would have been different; but, Men of Versailles, "wherefore rejoice" over fellow-countrymen slain?

STREET AND BARRICADE FIGHTING.

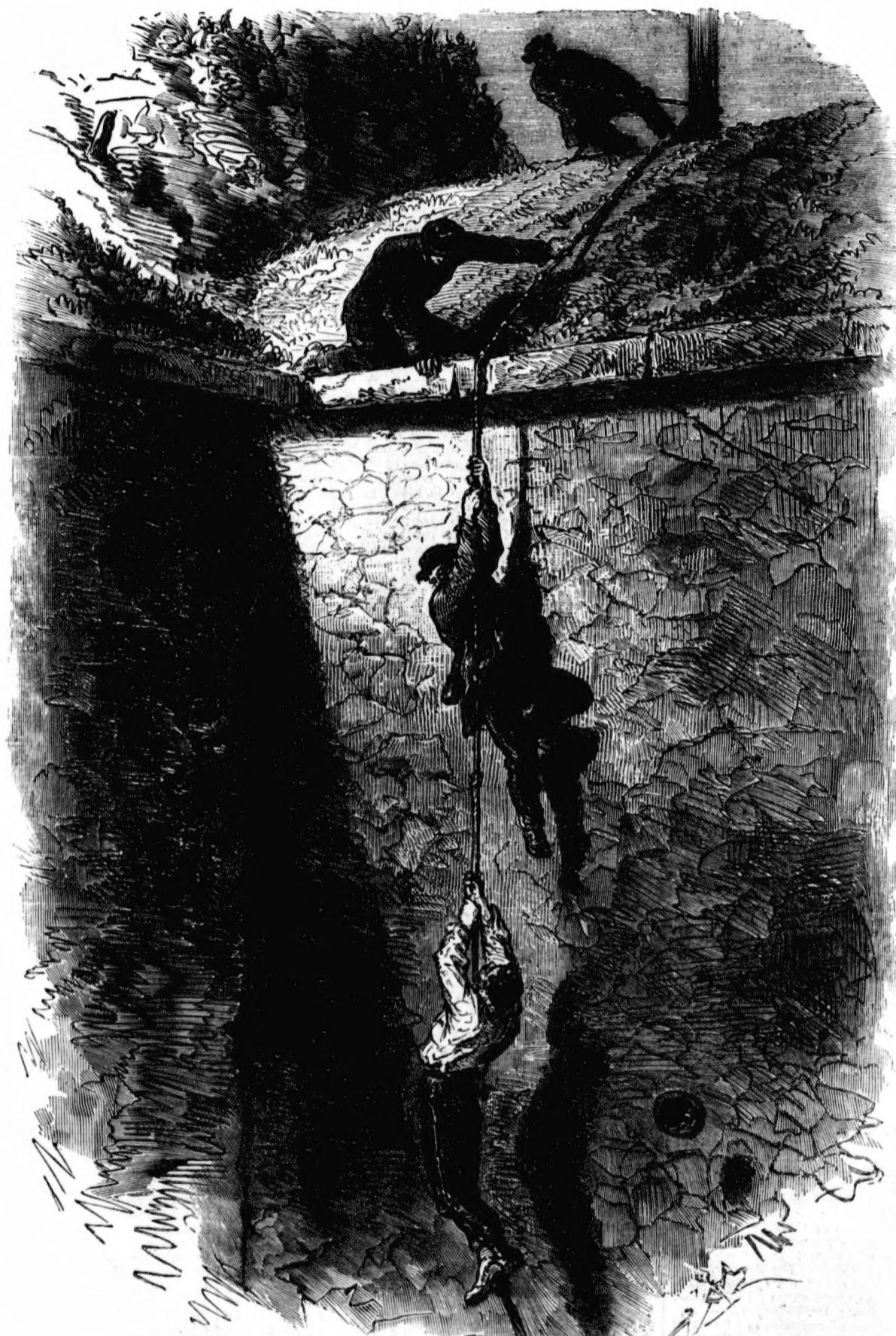
The barricades erected by the insurgents, and the fighting which took place at them and in the streets, both in the city and in the suburbs, have already been so fully described in our columns that we need not again go over the details. Suffice it to say that the Engravings on page 376 represent, respectively, the defence by the Communists of the barricade at Asnières and that erected in the Place de la Concorde at the end of the Rue de Rivoli.

Some further notion of

this kind of work may also be obtained from the letters of the English medical student which appear in another column.

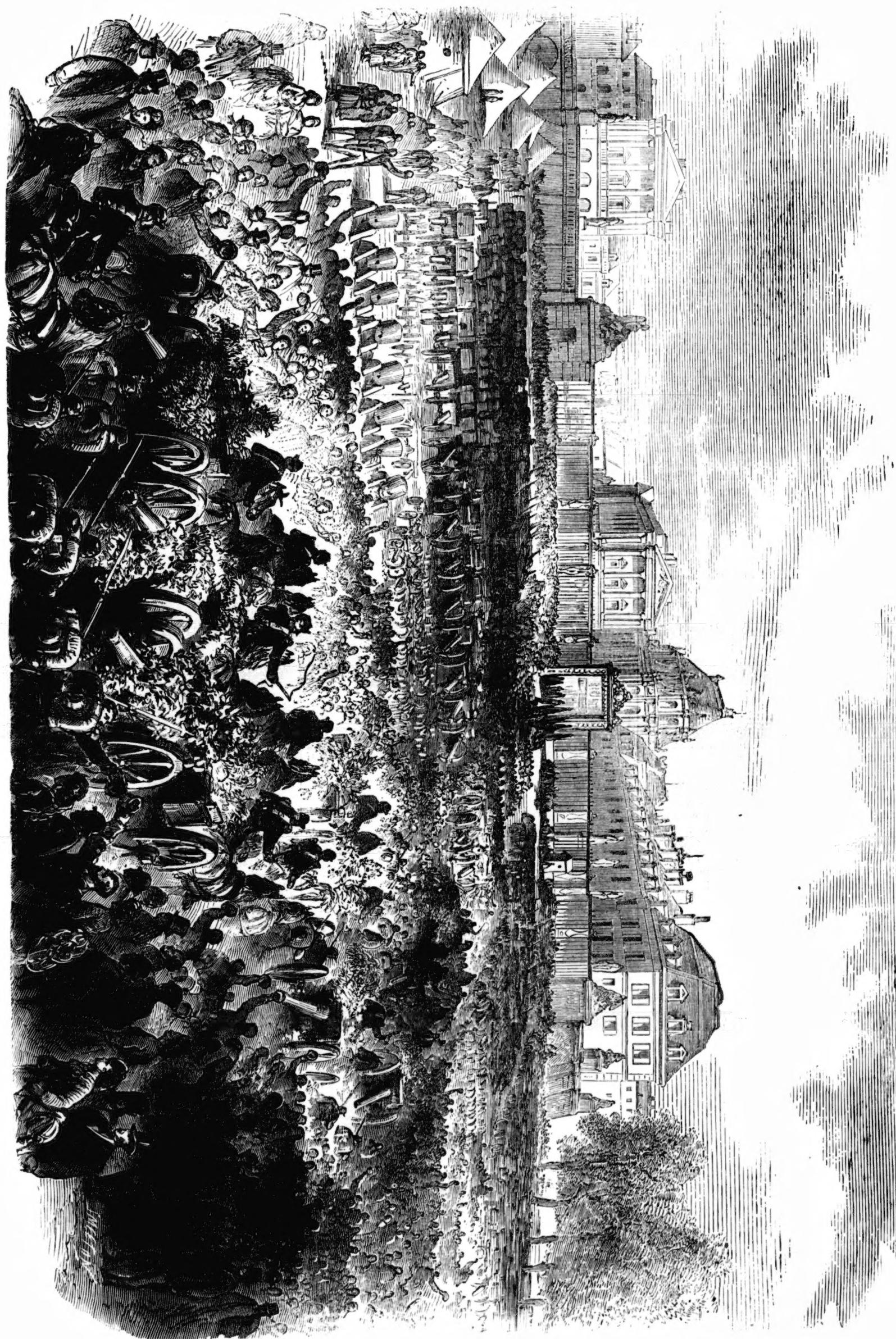
ROBBING THE CHURCH OF ST. PHILIPPE.

The last of our Engravings depicts one of the most reprehensible of the deeds committed by the Communists: we mean the pillage of the sacristy of the Church of St. Philippe du Roule, which may be taken as specimen of many similar scenes. The men who "abolished religion" could not, perhaps, be expected to pay much reverence to Church relics or ecclesiastical insignia; but they need not have indulged in such outrages upon decency as are here portrayed; and, at all events, they might have abstained from robbing the poor, an order of citizens to which they themselves mostly belonged. We suppose the personage on the left of the picture, with the ample sash round his waist, was a member of the Commune deputed (or self-appointed) to superintend the sacrilegious work. This official, it will be noted, is calmly confronted by the aged sacristan, who is engaged in making out a list of the sacred articles about to be carried off. The irreverence displayed by all the other actors in the scene is very shocking. [But we need not dwell upon the painful details.



THE CIVIL WAR IN FRANCE: REFRACTORY NATIONAL GUARDS ESCAPING FROM PARIS.

of the association in Europe and the United States. This document reviews at length recent events in Paris, eulogising in some cases, and in others defending, the conduct of the Paris Communists. "While tearing to pieces," the address says, "the living body of the proletariat, its rulers must no longer expect to return triumphantly into the intact architecture of their abodes." And again:—"If the acts of the Paris working men were Vandalism, it was the Vandalism of defence in despair, not the Vandalism of triumph, like that which the Christians perpetrated upon the really priceless treasures of heathen antiquity." The real murderer of Archbishop Darboy is, it declares, M. Thiers, who obstinately refused all offers of an exchange of prisoners. Speaking of the "International," the document says:—"Our association is, in fact, nothing but the international bond between the most advanced working men in the various countries in the civilised world." Amongst the members of the council signing the address are Messrs. B. Lucraft, George Odger, W. Mottershead, Cowell Stepney, Charles Murray, and the corresponding secretaries of France, Germany, Holland, Spain, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Hungary, Poland, Denmark, and the United States.



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SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1871.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

Of course, it would be entirely out of order to make any comment on a certain case in the law courts which it will be hereafter fashionable to speak of as a cause célèbre; but the facts necessarily suggest a topic which has some interest in these days of school boards. We hear a great deal of the effect of general education upon the Prussians and the Americans; but the truth of the case has not yet been thoroughly sifted out. Not that there can be anything but what is good in general education, but that we want more precise details—not to say that we want details altogether—as to the kind of alteration which is produced in (to use engineering phrases) the levels and limits of deviation. Take America, a country as to which we hear a great deal of the wonderful effects of general education. America produces no writers of the first class, and the general level of magazine and newspaper literature is lower than it is in England. What may be called the "reviewing" tone in the United States is far below the mark in England at the present time—that is to say, below our metropolitan standards. Then, with regard to the great body of the people, it would be interesting to know how much they retain of their school teaching. The facts in England are patent. That is to say, in the immense majority of cases all the school teaching, except as to reading, writing, and arithmetic, is almost as good as thrown away. It does not matter what rank in society you go to; for in every rank the average man of forty who has led an ordinary life since his school days will be found to have forgotten what the *pons asinorum* is, and will not know whether Virgil wrote in Latin or Greek. We have known men of ordinary education make such mistakes as "antichrist coal" for "anthracite coal," and worse than that; indeed, on the whole, to be quite as ignorant as the claimant in a certain cause. During the Byron controversy a peer wrote to the newspapers a letter which would have disgraced a charity boy. And, on the whole, it is amazing how very little of the literary part of his education the ordinary mortal retains in after life. In twenty years more we shall have the phenomena at our doors on an immense scale, and shall be better able to draw conclusions.

We are utterly unable to understand the apathy with which the question of the inclosures in Epping Forest and the Thames Embankment are regarded by the general public. These are both matters on which the Government should have been severely pressed; partly on account of the importance of the subject, and partly as a lesson to them. And we do hope that vigorous action will yet be taken on both subjects, especially as the process of inclosure in Epping Forest is still going on at an alarming rate.

There is another topic on which the public do not appear to be half as wide awake as they ought to be. We mean the promotion of clubs. A working-man's club is at the present time the subject of a prosecution for supplying beer to the subscribers, and it is alleged for the prosecution that it is a proprietary institution, and not a club in the proper sense of the word. We do not know how this may be decided, nor does it matter to the general question; but it seems to us that clubs formed on a model of much greater freedom than any of the West-End clubs, and supplying accommodation at a much cheaper rate, are greatly wanted for the middle classes as well as the working classes. It also strikes us that the *start* might, with advantage, come from individual capitalists. As soon as the advantages of such institutions were known, they would be taken out of the hands of proprietors; and in the meanwhile the legal difficulty might easily be evaded.

HEROISM ITS OWN REWARD—Joseph Allen, in the service of Messrs. Groves and Witnall, brewers, in giving evidence at the Salford Police Court on Tuesday, in regard to the rescue of a woman who attempted to commit suicide by throwing herself into the Irwell on Monday morning at Regent road Bridge, stated that during the past six years he had rescued twenty-seven persons from drowning at that place, and had taken out of the water three dead bodies. In reply to Sir John Mantell, the witness said he had received rewards from the Royal Humane Society to the amount of about £5s. Sir John ordered the witness's name and address to be recorded, with a view to mentioning his conduct to the Mayor.

THE CANNOCK CHASE RECLAMATIONS—The Midland Farmers' Club recently made an interesting excursion to the extensive waste lands which are in course of reclamation in Staffordshire by Mr. J. R. McClean, M.P., the eminent engineer. By means of the steam plough nearly 1000 acres of absolutely barren land have been got under cultivation since March 1 last; and fair crops of oats and potatoes are growing on what was a wild expanse of heather and fern barely four months ago. The Midland Club made a careful inspection of the works, and warm eulogiums were passed upon the enterprise and public spirit which, in the words of one of the speakers, was converting "a howling wilderness into a fruitful plain." Mr. McClean, in reply, invited the club to visit Cannock Chase in the July of next year, and promised to then submit a balance-sheet of all that had been expended and received in connection with the lands under inspection. Strong testimony was offered in favour of the "direct" or scientific, system of farming as against the "roundabout," or old-fashioned method; and the meeting separated, after passing a unanimous vote of thanks to Mr. McClean.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE RETURN OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN and Royal family to Windsor from Scotland has been postponed till Tuesday.

THE PRINCE OF WALES HELD A LEVEE, by command of her Majesty, at St. James's Palace, on Wednesday. The Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Arthur were amongst the members of the Royal family who accompanied his Royal Highness to the Throne-Room.

THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF BRAZIL arrived on Monday at Lisbon, on their way to this country. They will perform a week's quarantine in the lazarette before going on shore.

THE MARQUIS OF LORNE, who, with Princess Louise, returned to England last Saturday, took his accustomed seat in the House of Commons on Monday night, and voted with the Government on the Army Regulation Bill.

THE QUEEN has expressed a desire that the Scottish National Memorial to the Prince Consort should be erected in Charlotte-square, Edinburgh. Her Majesty has recently had plans of the city submitted to her for the purpose of enabling her definitely to select a site, and, after full consideration, that square has been chosen as the most suitable. The plans for the laying out of the ground are in preparation by Mr. Matheson of the Board of Works.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY has awarded two naval pensions of £50 a year each (for lieutenants) to retired Commanders Henry D. Foster and Thomas Young.

MR. BOUVIER has resigned the chairmanship of the Diplomatic and Consular Services Committee, and Mr. Sclater-Booth has been elected in his stead.

MR. PATRICK BULFIN, Lord Mayor of Dublin, died at the Mansion House, on Monday night, shortly before twelve o'clock. His Lordship had been unwell for the last few days.

MAJOR-GENERAL THOMAS TOWNSEND PEARS, military secretary to the Duke of Argyll, has been created a K.C.B.; and Mr. W. H. Stephenson, Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue, has received the Companionship of the same Order.

MR. FRANCIS MONCKTON was, on Tuesday, elected for West Staffordshire without opposition, in succession to the late Mr. Meynell-Ingram. The nomination for Westmeath will take place on Saturday.

THE SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION will hold its annual congress at Leeds, from Oct. 4 to Oct. 11.

THE STATUE OF PROFESSOR MORSE, the telegraph inventor, which has been erected in the Central Park, at New York, was unveiled on Saturday.

MR. DEPUTY WHETHAM, who has been a member of the Common Council twenty-six years, was, on Monday, elected Alderman for the Ward of Bridge Within, in succession to the late Sir Joseph Causton.

CAPTAIN SKINNER AND THE ONTARIO VOLUNTEERS who are to attend the Wimbledon review sailed for England, on Saturday, in the Scandinavian.

BOTH HOUSES OF CONVOCATION assembled at Westminster on Tuesday—the Archbishop of Canterbury presiding in the Upper House, and the Dean of Rochester in the Lower. One of the subjects which engaged attention was the adoption of an authorised hymn-book.

THE LIVERPOOL SCHOOL BOARD has resolved to pay the school fees of children in denominational schools, and to allow temporarily to industrial schools the grant hitherto made by the Corporation.

THE NUMBER OF VISITORS TO THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION last week was as follows:—Season tickets, 3659; on payment of 2s. 6d., 3415; on payment of 1s. 4s. 321; total, 48,395. The visitors on Saturday week were—by season tickets, 672; on payment of 1s., 8854; total, 9526.

THE DUKE OF NORFOLK presided, on Tuesday, at a meeting of Catholics, when a report on education was read, from which it appeared that the Roman Catholic population of Great Britain is about a million and a half, that 138,000 children are at school, and that 92,000 still remain to be provided for.

THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT are apprehensive of disturbances in Java. A notable prediction of a native prophet is expected to be fulfilled next year. Very various interpretations are given of the prophecy, but they are all of a character to cause agitation among an ignorant and superstitious race.

THE TOTAL EXCHEQUER RECEIPTS from April 1 to June 10 amounted to £12,442,564, an increase of rather more than £200,000 upon the corresponding period of last year. The expenditure has been £13,288,456. The balance in the Bank of England on Saturday last was £4,524,837, and in that of Ireland, £1,068,654.

THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD proposes to contribute to the Library of the University of Strasburg copies of such works printed at the University Press as the delegates of that department may think fit.

THE BRESLAU THEATRE was entirely burnt down on Tuesday night. When the fire broke out the performance had commenced. We learn by a Reuter's telegram that no lives were lost. The library and the instruments of the band were saved.

TWO CHILDREN, aged respectively eleven and nine years, were killed at Woolwich, on Wednesday, by the falling of a mass of earth.

GEORGE MANN, the betting-book keeper, who has lately been examined at Bow-street, on a charge of stealing a number of registered letters, was, on Wednesday, committed for trial.

MR. SCUDAMORE reports that the total number of messages forwarded from postal telegraph stations in the United Kingdom during the week ending June 10, 1871, and during the corresponding week of 1870, was as follows:—1871, 222,490; 1870, 177,523; increase, 44,967.

HANNAH BROMLEY, domestic servant in the employ of Mr. Harper, of Leven Carr, Yorkshire, was apprehended, last Saturday, on a charge of having murdered Mrs. Harper and her grand-daughter, Miss Lily Marian Taylor, by administering arsenic to them in tea on the 18th ult.

AN ATTEMPT IS BEING MADE IN ROCHDALE to get up an agitation among the factory operatives, with a view of having the mills closed on Saturdays at noon instead of at two o'clock, as at present. At a meeting held on Saturday a resolution was passed pledging those present to use all legal means to obtain the desired reduction of the hours of labour, but the movement does not appear to meet with much support.

SEVERAL VERY IMPORTANT PUBLIC WORKS have been projected for Alsace and Lorraine, the execution of which is to be very shortly commenced. The principal of these are the canalisation of the Moselle, which, according to the estimates, will cost 8,000,000 thalers (50,000,000 francs), and the excavation of a canal uniting Strasbourg with the Rhine. Some of the intended improvements have been repeatedly promised by the French Government (especially just before an election or a *plébiscite*), but no serious steps were ever taken towards their execution.

DR. DE MESCHIN, upon whom a clerk named Gesnay lately made a murderous attack in the Temple, is so seriously ill that it has been considered advisable to take his depositions. The prosecutor states that during his absence on the Continent his chambers had been broken into, and books, deeds, manuscripts, &c., to the value of £5000, taken away. He denies that he ever ill-treated the prisoner, as the latter had alleged.

A SAD FATALITY occurred at Clapham-common a few days ago. A surgeon named Mapplesome, who resided close by, went out to give his dog a run, and was never seen alive afterwards. He was found by a policeman lying on his back quite dead. His dog, who sat by him, would not allow him to be touched. With great difficulty the dog was quieted, and the body borne home, followed by the faithful animal. At the inquest it was shown that Mr. Mapplesome died of disease of the heart, fatally intensified by running, and a verdict to that effect was returned.

DANGEROUS IN DEATH.—According to the *Gaulois*, information was given to the military authorities in Paris that although the fiery Communist leader Delescluze was dead his name was to be used as an incentive to a renewed outbreak, and that a plan was in contemplation for exhuming his body, which was to be carried through Paris as the remains of a popular martyr. Private information was sent to General Vinoy that although the body of Delescluze had been buried hastily a means of identification had been adopted—a leaden ring around one leg. Soldiers were immediately set to work to exhume the bodies which had been found at the barricade of the Barracks of Prince Eugène, and one bearing the distinguishing mark mentioned was found. It was at once removed and buried secretly in another place.

THE STRIKES.—Mr. Walter Morrison, M.P., and Mr. Pears, of the Social Science Association, have visited Newcastle-on-Tyne this week, with a view of seeing if any means could be adopted of bringing the engineers now on strike in that town and their employers into friendly conference. But their efforts have proved fruitless. Neither side shows any disposition to yield. The number of men on strike has been augmented by a turn-out of the moulder employed by Messrs. Richardson and Co., ironfounders, Park-lane, Gateshead.—At a meeting of the steam-coal owners, held in Bristol, on Wednesday, it was agreed that the question which has caused the strike amongst the South Wales colliers should be referred to arbitration. This decision is, however, coupled with the condition that the whole subject of the rates of wages paid by steam-coal owners and ironmasters shall also be dealt with.

THE SITE OF THE NEW LAW COURTS.

The visitor to London who unconsciously imitates Dr. Johnson by saying "Let us take a walk up Fleet-street," will find at Temple Bar more than a merely traditional boundary to the line of houses where the City begins or ends. The battle of the Law Courts has, it may be supposed, terminated in the House of Commons, and it only remains to carry out vigorously the plans over which there has been so much squabbling, with as little waste of public money and as few permitted breaches of contract as may be convenient to the First Commissioner of Works. The vast hoarding which has so long been a great exhibiting space for bill-posters has now a gap in it—a gap generally half filled by a heavy cart or a couple of lumbering waggons; and beyond it there opens out a great uneven territory which at first sight reminds one of an Australian diggings, with scores of stout navvies at work in trenches on muddy slopes, and on the sides of great mounds of rubbish. This wilderness of dirt, however, is the space cleared for the new buildings to be devoted to the administration of the law; and it may be hoped that, as we are sure to have to pay handsomely, we shall get value for our money without the dissatisfaction of seeing a mean, sordid pile of buildings which, having been kept down to a dreary utilitarian level under the plea of economy, will yet be found to have exceeded all the original estimates.

At present the work that is being done is suggestive of substantial intentions, for the foundations are being dug deep and the enormous square excavations already made seem to denote a great extent of cellarage—probably almost enough to contain repeated Acts of Parliament or laws that have become dead letters from the dislike of Englishmen generally to take up the occupation of Mr. Bee Wright and haul their poor neighbours before the judges for infringing obsolete clauses of defunct legislation.

Whether these great cavernous depths will really be devoted to the purpose of containing all the voluminous parchments then forwarded unnecessary because of the summarising and concentration of the civil laws of the country we have not yet learnt. It is possible that some of the more remote portions, which may go below the gas, and the water, and the main sewer, could be fitted up as nineteenth-century dungeons for the imprisonment of refractory witnesses for contempt of court; more probably still, they may be for kitchens, luncheon-bars, and smoking-rooms where profound thought will not be interrupted by the turmoil of the streets or the chatter of the lobbies. At any rate, there is in the open waste behind the great hoarding much to suggest to the imagination a period when judges, juries, counsel, witnesses, and the public will no longer be condemned to stow together in the foul atmosphere of an unventilated room where men choke, and stifle, and grow giddy, and evidence sounds like the droning buzz of a bluebottle heard in a feverish dream. It is by no means certain even when the first stone will be laid; but the preparations are going on now with a little less deliberation; and who knows whether, if the Solicitor-General accepts the mild suggestion of the Judge, and shortens his cross-examination a little, the close of the Tichborne case may not be the inauguration session of the new courts.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

In the year 1870 427,247 persons visited the British Museum to view the general collections. The number was smaller than in either of the preceding three years, although the museum was open in three summer months on Monday and Saturday evenings from six to eight o'clock, and 2228 visitors were admitted on those evenings. The above numbers do not include the 98,971 visits to the reading-room in the year; this is also a smaller number than usual. The readers averaged 338 daily, and upon an average each reader consulted thirteen volumes in a day. The additions in 1870 to the treasures in the British Museum were, as always, numerous and important. The library acquired valuable collections of Chinese, Hungarian, and Polish books; and a large purchase was made from the libraries of the suppressed monasteries in Portugal, sold under an order of the Portuguese Government. The Museum can now boast, not only of the earliest book printed in Hungarian, but of possessing the best Hungarian and Polish collections out of Hungary and Poland, and even many rare books not to be found in those countries. Professor Owen reports that the steady increase in the number of scientific visitors and students admitted to the stored natural history collections, and availing themselves of such opportunities as can be presented, pleads for a speedy acquisition of adequate space and suitable conditions for applying the national collections to the advancement of science. The Parliament of Sydney has transmitted to the Museum duplicates of fossils found in the limestone caves of Wellington Valley. They include most instructive illustrations of recent and extinct forms of marsupial animals, as well as of some extinct birds and reptiles peculiar to and characteristic of the Australian continent. Eggs of an extinct bird of Madagascar, which might well have suggested the idea of the gigantic roc of Arabian romance, have from time to time reached Europe of late; and the British Museum has now acquired by purchase two specimens of these eggs from the fluvial deposits in Madagascar. The larger egg has a circumference of 36 in. in the long and 30 in. in the short axis. Among the additions to the department of zoology are specimens of fish from Queensland rivers, affording an additional instance of organic types which have passed away at an incalculable remote period in Europe still lingering in life at the Antipodes; for, as the Australian *Myrmecobius* represents the extinct *Amphitherium* of the Oxfordshire oolite; and as the Port Jackson shark (*Cestracion*) similarly represents the mezozoic hybodonts of England, so the *Ceratodus* of the Queensland rivers has brought to light the organisation and status of the problematical fishes with antler-like dental masses or "palates," hitherto known only thereby as petrifactions in limestone and other beds of triassic and trinacrian ages. In the map department the most notable acquisition of the year is a photograph copy of one of the most precious porcellan in the world, known as the *Portulano Medicco*, in the Biblioteca Laurenziana, in Florence. It is of the date of 1351, and is the oldest known series of maps in existence which throw light upon the history of medieval geographical discovery. In the report on the department of prints and drawings mention is made of the publication of the first volume of the catalogue of satirical prints and drawings describing subjects from about 1320 to the Revolution of 1688. All the departments supply accounts of additions to their stores; and even a larger number of gifts have been presented to the Museum than we could now find space to enumerate.

THE NUMBER OF PAUPERS in the metropolis last week was 125,277, and this was a decrease of 8819 upon the return in the corresponding period of last year.

THE PURCHASE JUDGMENT.—The Rev. Robert Gregory and the Rev. H. P. Liddon, two Canons of St. Paul's, have, it is said, addressed a letter to the Bishop of London respecting the decision in the Purchas case. They state their intention to say the *Prayer of Consecration* in the Communion service while "standing before the table," and pray that they may be included in any proceedings which, in the exercise of his coercive jurisdiction, the Bishop may think fit to sanction. They pray further that the case may be raised in one of the civil courts at Westminster, observing, "In the impartiality of an ordinary English court of law we should have entire confidence, although we are well aware that failure would necessarily entail severer penalties than any adjudged by the Judicial Committee."

ROYAL ALFRED MERCHANT SEAMEN'S INSTITUTION.—The annual meeting in aid of this institution was held, on Wednesday, at Belvedere, near Erith. The Lord Mayor, who presided, said that during the four years of its existence the institution had afforded relief to nearly 200 decayed merchant seamen, who would otherwise have spent the remainder of their days in a workhouse or amidst distress and poverty. But that result, although very gratifying, was still far below what it should be, remembering that upwards of 300,000 men were engaged in the merchant service. Mr. Thomas Baring, M.P., dwelt upon the obligations which the city of London owed to merchant ships and seamen, and urged it was the duty of those who employed the sailor and benefited by his labour to provide for him, when past work, such a home as the Belvedere institution provided for its inmates.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 406.
PHILOSOPHY OF COUNT-OUTS.

We have lately had an unusual number of count-outs. The *Times* calls them scandalous, as if they were arbitrary, wilful, and governed by no law. But is this so? Sometimes count-outs are wilful and arbitrary; but generally, like all other events, they are produced by the action of laws as certain and inexorable as the law of gravitation, and as subtle. One example will show what we mean. The sitting of Monday, the 5th, was prolonged until three o'clock on Tuesday morning. Few of the members got to bed until four; consequently, tired and jaded, they did not come down in great numbers on Tuesday evening. Soon after prayers there were about a hundred in the House; but, after questions, the number slowly diminished, and when Mr. Graves rose to call attention to the manning of the Navy there were about sixty members present. The subject was important and attractive, and until the discussion upon it ended few of the sixty left. The next subject—*the cattle plague*—introduced by Mr. Sewell Read, was less attractive, and speedily the number fell to below forty; but no attempt was made to count the House whilst he was speaking. Mr. Glyn, the chief Government whip, was exceedingly anxious that Forster, the Vice-President of the Council, should answer Mr. Read, and, with great difficulty, he succeeded in keeping a sufficient number of members to hold the House; but when Mr. Forster had finished and Mr. Delahunt rose to discuss Irish currency, no power of the whip could keep the House any longer. Here, then, our readers will see there were two forces at work, if no more—what we may call, in philosophic phrase, a correlation of forces. On the one hand, the members were tired and jaded, and consequently indisposed to attend. On the other hand, there was no business on the paper sufficiently attractive to induce them to resist and overcome their indisposition. It is true that a far more important man than Mr. Delahunt had a notice of motion upon the paper—Sir John Pakington wished to call attention to the Cornwall Rangers. Very angry was Mr. Newdegate with the hon. member for Boston; so angry that he used words not within the rule, and had to be called to order by the Speaker. He was also illogical, for he charged Mr. Collins with having often “relieved the House from its duties against its will,” which, of course, is a thing that no member can do. Mr. Collins, when he moves that the House be counted, is generally the organ to express its will.

A TERRIBLE FACER FROM CARDWELL.

But Sir John's distress must have been most acute when Mr. Cardwell, with unusual heat, said, “With respect to that small scrap of paper, I disclaim all responsibility respecting it. In the first place, I did not write it; in the second, I did not see it; in the third, if I had found it, I would not have used it. *I have always thought that a note written by one gentleman to another is a private communication.*” A roar of cheers from the Liberal benches greeted this terrible facer, whilst from the other side there came no sound to comfort Sir John in his distress. Sir John looked hot and troubled, and, leaning over his next colleague, he seemed to implore his chief, Mr. Disraeli, to come to the rescue. Meanwhile, Mr. Newdegate had risen to read Mr. Collins, in his solemn way, a severe rebuke. Mr. Newdegate has himself often been counted out whilst he was speaking, and possibly by Mr. Collins, for the hon. member for Boston is no respecter of persons. Very angry was Mr. Newdegate with the hon. member for Boston; so angry that he used words not within the rule, and had to be called to order by the Speaker. He was also illogical, for he charged Mr. Collins with having often “relieved the House from its duties against its will,” which, of course, is a thing that no member can do. Mr. Collins, when he moves that the House be counted, is generally the organ to express its will.

BACKING A FRIEND.

And now, will the Conservative chief rise? At first he seemed to hesitate. Of course, he could not resist Sir John's urgent and pathetic appeal; but to lookers-on he did not appear to be very hearty in the cause of his right hon. friend. He did not rush to the rescue. Nor did his speech show much zeal in the cause of his distressed colleague. On the contrary, it was languid, and so strangely illogical and inconclusive that some thought it was cleverly ironical. To prove that his right hon. friend was not likely to do a dishonourable thing, Mr. Disraeli told us a curious story. “A letter was once found addressed to a right hon. gentleman opposite, on a subject of great interest, at a moment of great excitement, the contents of which those who became *unavoidably acquainted with them* (How so? They need not have read it) saw might, if revealed, have been very disagreeable to the Government; and, under the advice of his right hon. friend, the letter was placed in a cover and returned to the writer.” And is it likely—for this was the logical deduction from the story, that the right hon. gentleman, so honourable then, would do anything dishonourable now? Was this serious argument, or irony? It looks very much like the latter. But, anyhow, as was said, the Conservatives did not very effectively “help a lame dog over the stile.” Mr. Gladstone, in a few words, tore this reasoning to shreds. Mr. Hardy denied “that this paper was in no way different from remarks made in a debate which were not meant to be overheard, but which were often commented upon.” Verily, these right hon. gentlemen seem to have rather misty notions about honour.

A NEAT RETORT.

Mr. Cardwell, on Monday, made a very concise and neat reply to Lord Elcho. The noble Lord said, “This Army Bill has been described as both just and generous. I cannot, however, understand how generosity and justice can go together. Where there is justice there can be no room for generosity.” Whereupon Mr. Cardwell:—“The noble Lord has added a new canon to our moral code. It is impossible, he says, that the same law can be both just and generous. It follows, therefore, that justice must always be ungenerous and generosity always unjust.” Well said, Mr. Cardwell! And here we may say that our War Secretary has shone brightly during these Army debates. His knowledge of the subject has been conspicuous in his lucid explanations and his prompt replies. His patience has been almost superhuman. His temper, though more sorely tried than ever Minister's was before, has never failed. He has often had to complain of the unprecedent policy of his opponents; but he has never been querulous. He has frequently been compelled to rebuke somewhat sharply the conspirators against his bill; but he has always done it in the manner and tone of a gentleman. He has been defeated, in so far that he has been obliged to drop the regulation clauses of his bill, but not dishonoured. On the contrary, his reputation is not only clear of stain, but shines brighter than it did before he entered into this struggle.

THE WILLEM III.—It will be recollected that this steam-ship, laden with a valuable cargo and with a large number of passengers on board, caught fire, on the night of the 19th ult., when about twelve miles off the Isle of Wight, and on the commencement of her voyage as the first of a line of steamers founded by the Netherlands Company, under contract with the Dutch Government to establish regular steam communication between Holland and Java. All the passengers and troops on board were saved, and the burning vessel was towed by a Channel steam-tug to Spithead, where she was placed in shoal water and scuttled. After some days the fire was effectually extinguished, and since then the holes opened in the iron bottom plates of the hull have been plugged up, steam-pumps got on board, and other means taken to clear the inside of the hull from water. On Sunday evening the hull was at length floated and moored for the night in six fathoms of water, the pumps on board being more than sufficient in power to ensure the safety of the vessel during the night. On Monday she was towed into Portsmouth harbour by Government steam-tugs, and berthed temporarily alongside one of the large coal-hulks, and measures were at once taken by Lloyd's agent at Portsmouth for clearing out the hull. It is believed that a considerable portion of the cargo, and possibly some portion of the luggage and goods belonging to the passengers, has escaped the fire owing to the position of stowage in the ship's hold.

THE LATE “ACT OF HEROISM” AT LONDON BRIDGE.—The sequel to the sensation story of the leap of London Bridge to rescue a “drowning man” is thus given by the *Leeds Express*:—“We regret to learn that rumours are afloat which tend to diminish the act of heroism which has been reported; and we regret still more that we are unable, after an interview with Mr. J. B. Johnson, and his brother, Mr. Peter Johnson, to give these rumours unqualified denial. It is asserted that Mr. Peter of the West-End, whose life J. B. Johnson is said to have saved, is no other than Mr. Peter Johnson, of the West-End, Leeds, proprietor of the Wellington Baths, and that his fall from the steam-boat and his brother's leap from the bridge were pre-arranged acts. One gentleman assures us that Mr. Peter Johnson admitted this much to him; another tells us that he was about to organise a demonstration in honour of J. B. Johnson, on his return to Leeds, but was checked in his intention by the intelligence given to him at the Wellington Baths that the London Bridge scene was a ‘got-up affair’; from a third we learn that Peter Johnson expressed to him a difficulty that he felt in re-training his birth when he was supposed to be almost dying from exhaustion in the boat after his rescue; whilst a fourth, writing from London, declares that some passengers on the steam-boat knew that something was to happen at London Bridge before the event occurred, and that the ‘drowning man’ was a professional swimmer. We have communicated these statements to the Johnsons, and asked for their authority to contradict them. This they decline to give, saying that ‘they ought not to be questioned on such matters.’ It was pointed out to them that the statements current in the town were injurious to their character, and that we should be much pleased to deny their accuracy. Still both the Johnsons declined to give the necessary authority. Under these circumstances, we think it our duty, having fired the enthusiasm of the public by praise of Johnson's leap to save a drowning man, to place these facts before them. That the jump from London Bridge was a daringfeat no one will deny; but if it was a planned performance, there is no heroism in it.”

AND IMPEACHES THE GOVERNMENT.

The scene in the House of Commons on Thursday night was curious and funny, with a touch of humour in it to those who are sensitive to humour. The actors though, except, perhaps, one of them—to wit, Mr. Disraeli—were not conscious of humour. They are, indeed, the cause of humour, but have none themselves. First we had Sir John, with his impeachment of her Majesty's Government, his formal, pompous manner and solemn tones, and elaborate and studied rhetoric—all so ludicrously disproportional to the crime alleged. An Attorney-General opening his case in a prosecution for high treason could not have been more solemn and elaborate than Sir John was on this occasion. Then it was very droll to those who were in the secret, as we happened to be, to note how slowly and deliberately, and with evident self-satisfaction, he mounted or culminated to the height of his great argument, or as we may say, approached the mine—to wit, that scrap of paper—the explosion of which he confidently expected would seriously damage her Majesty's Government and shame their party. All this was very droll. Nor was the scene less so, but even more, when, having exploded his mine, instead of dismay, a radiant smile lighted up the faces of the Ministers; whilst the Liberals, instead of being ashamed, burst out into a chorus of laughter intermingled with groans. Abashed looked Sir John, and puzzled at the unexpected reception of his disclosure. But the end was not yet, nor was the fun finished.

GETS A SIDE BLOW FROM A FRIEND.

After Sir John, rose Mr. Thomas Collins—Tom Collins, as he is called in the House—one of Sir John's own party, and blurted out, in his audacious way, arguments for count-outs which must have touched Sir John to the quick. Mr. Collins is famous for moving counts. He has a notion that when the House dwindles down to twenty or thirty members it ought to be counted out; and if he be present, whoever may be speaking—friend or opponent—he never fails to call Mr. Speaker's attention to the fact that there are not forty members present. “If,” said Mr. Collins, “there be not twenty-five members in the House, why should the House be kept to listen to a dreary discussion upon a foolish motion, which an honourable or right honourable member had put on the paper to please a few influential constituents?” So spake Tom Collins; and the words “right honourable” emphasised as they were, must have made Sir John keenly feel that the bolt was aimed specially at him.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JUNE 9.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House read the Ecclesiastical Courts Bill of Lord Shaftesbury and the D. G. Bill the second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

At the morning sitting, the House passed the Westmeath Crime and Outrage Bill through its final stages, and further considered the Army Regulation Bill in Committee, but very little progress was made.

At the evening sitting, Mr. M'ARTHUR called attention to the state of affairs on the West Coast of Africa, with especial reference to the administration of justice, and the necessity of reforming the same, establishing some form of local and municipal self-government, and revising the system of taxation.

MONDAY, JUNE 12.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE TREATY OF WASHINGTON.

Earl RUSSELL moved a resolution recommending her Majesty to refuse her ratification to the treaty recently concluded with the United States. A good deal of the noble Lord's speech was devoted to a vindication of the course pursued by the noble Earl himself with reference to the escape of the Alabama from Liverpool; but in other passages Lord Russell objected to the acceptance by the English Commissioners, as the bases of arbitration, of rules of international law which were not in force at the time the matter in dispute arose, and complained that in the concessions which had been made to America due regard had not been paid to our obligations to Canada.

The discussion was continued by Lord Granville, Lord Derby (who recommended Lord Russell not to press his motion to a division), Lord De Grey, Lord Carnarvon, and other Peers. Lord Russell's motion was eventually negatived without a division.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE ARMY BILL.

When all the questions which appeared upon the paper had been gone through, and Sir George Grey rose to address the Secretary of State for War on an inquiry of which he had given him private notice, there was a general “Hush!” and the deep silence in which the right hon. Baronet asked whether the Government intended to divide the Army Bill and postpone a part of it was preserved while Mr. Cardwell informed him that the Government was convinced that the abolition of purchase must be carried into effect without delay; and that, as they desired to carry out that operation with full compensation to officers, they must press the House to pass the clauses of the bill which refer to that subject. For various reasons they regarded the sections which transfer the power of appointing to commissions in the militia from the Lords Lieutenant of counties to the Secretary of State as *essential*. But there were other clauses that conferred powers which, though useful, were not absolutely necessary, and upon these it was not the intention of the Government to insist whenever they should find reason to believe that by doing so they should occasion delay in the progress of the Bill. An animated debate followed, in which Mr. Disraeli, Mr. Newdegate, Mr. Gladstone, Lord Elcho, Colonel Skeet, Mr. Liddell, Mr. Osborne, Mr. G. H. Bentinck, and Mr. Cardwell took part. The House then went into Committee on the Army Regulation Bill; and, after a long discussion, the third clause was passed without division.

TUESDAY, JUNE 13.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House discussed the Commons' amendments to their Lordships' amendments in the University Tests Bill, and resolved, by 129 to 89, not to insist upon the new test clause which had been inserted at the instance of the Marquis of Salisbury, and which the Commons had struck out of the bill.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House, at the morning sitting, resumed the consideration of the Army Regulation Bill in Committee, and passed the fourth and fifth clauses, thus completing the first part of the measure relating to the abolition of purchase.

At the evening sitting, among the questions discussed were the education and training of naval cadets and the administration of India.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House rejected Sir J. Lubbock's bill for amending the Endowed Schools Act of 1869, by 222 to 64.

The bill of Dr. Lush to amend the Medical Act of 1868 was also discussed, but eventually the order was discharged and the measure withdrawn.

Prior to the House adjourning, Mr. Monckton took his seat for West Staffordshire, in the room of Mr. Meynell-Ingram, deceased.

THURSDAY, JUNE 15.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

LANDLORD AND TENANT ACT OF IRELAND AMENDMENT BILL. Lord CAIRNS introduced a bill to amend the Landlord and Tenant Act of Ireland, having special reference to the Waterford tenantry. This was intended as a declaratory Act to settle some doubts which had created much alarm lately, in consequence of a judgment recently pronounced by Lord Justice Christian.

The LORD CHANCELLOR having expressed his thanks to Lord Cairns, the bill was read the first time.

THE UNION OF BENEFICES BILL.

The Bishop of EXETER moved the second reading of this bill, the object of which was to extend to cathedral cities the provisions of an Act passed some Sessions ago.

In the course of a discussion which followed, several objections were urged against both the form and substance of the measure, which was ultimately negatived without a division.

A great many bills were then advanced a stage.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THAMES EMBANKMENT.

Mr. GLADSTONE gave notice, with reference to the motion of Mr. W. H. Smith standing on the notice paper for Friday night, that it was his intention to move that a Select Committee be appointed to inquire whether, having regard to the various rights and interests involved, it is expedient that the land reclaimed from the Thames, and lying between Whitehall-gardens and Whitehall-place (the land referred to in Mr. Smith's motion), should, in whole or in part, be applied to the advantage of the inhabitants of the metropolis.

ARMY REGULATION BILL.

The House having again gone into Committee on the Army Regulation Bill (commencing at clause 7), another night was given up to the consideration of this interminable bill. Mr. McCullagh Torrens, on an appeal from Mr. Cardwell, postponed his amendment with reference to enlistment to the morning sitting of the next day (Friday).

AN UNPLEASANT ADVENTURE befell a gentleman and two ladies at Torquay on Monday evening. Regardless of the incoming tide, they walked around the rocks at Corbon Head, and, upon attempting to retrace their steps, they found their passage cut off. The gentleman took one of the ladies on his back and attempted to wade through the water, but, his foot slipping, he and his fair burden were immersed. With some difficulty, however, the whole of the party managed to escape.

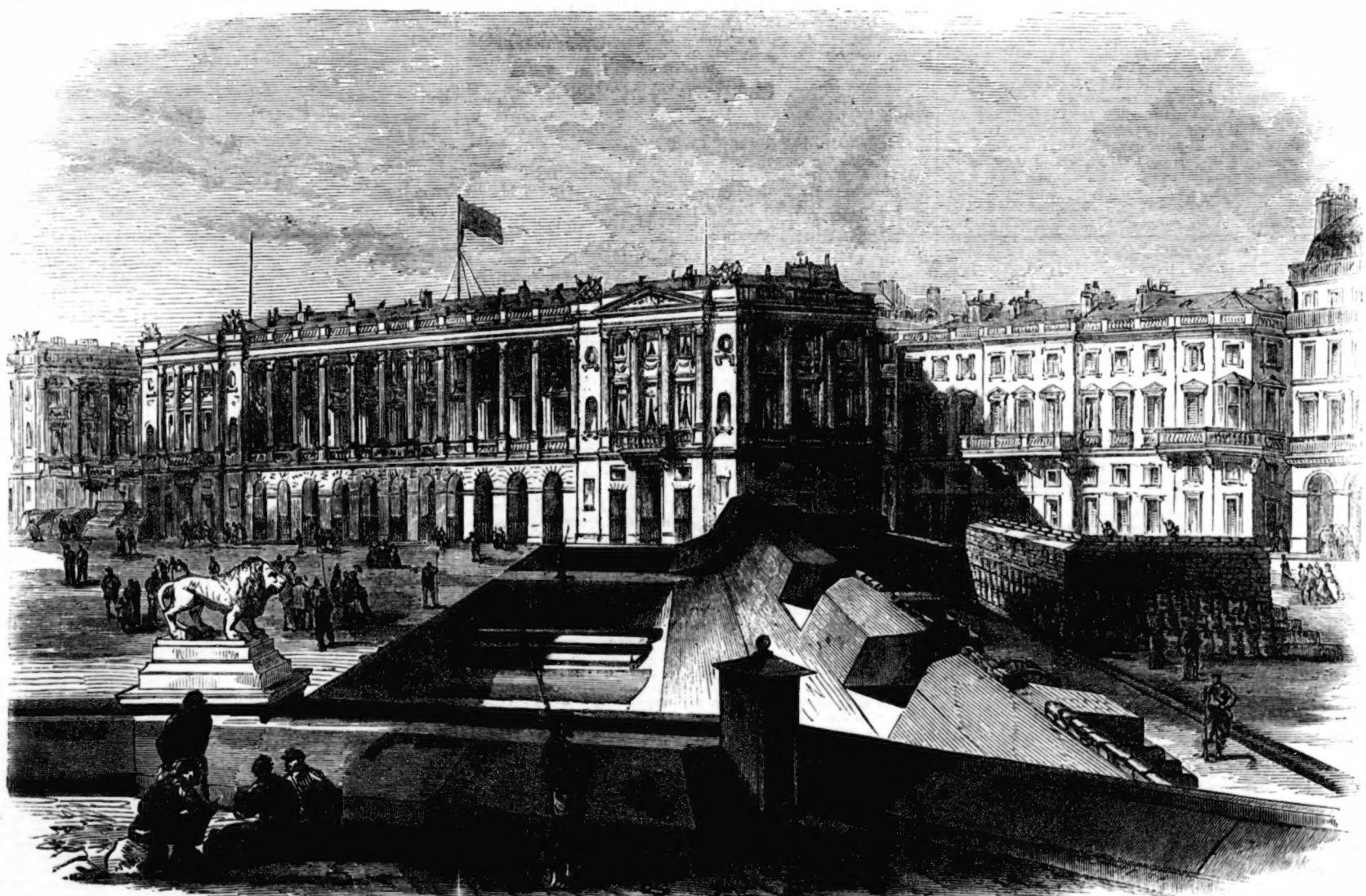
BRITISH COLUMBIA.—Accounts have recently been published in the Canadian papers showing the enormous resources of British Columbia as a mine of future wealth. The fisheries, we are told, in the Gulf of Georgia and the sound will be unsurpassed in value, and there are cod-banks which may yet rival those of Newfoundland. Its timber resources are enormous, the timber being of a most superior description, and the forests covering an area which is estimated at 100,000 square miles. The “Douglas pine” abounds, which has of late years quite taken the place of Riga spars for shipbuilding. Anthracite and bituminous coal are met with all through Columbia, and the yield of gold has been considerable.

THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.—The fourteenth annual report of the trustees of the National Portrait Gallery has been issued. The eighty-two donations mentioned in former reports have now been increased to ninety-one, and the purchases from 217 to 223. Among the latter are a portrait of Mr. Charles Dickens, painted at the age of forty-three, by Ary Scheffer, and small whole-length portrait of Sir Walter Scott, painted by Sir William Allan, R.A. The total number of visitors to the gallery during the year 1870, from its opening at South Kensington, on March 28, was 58,913, being 34,497 in excess of the previous year, when the gallery was in Great George-street, Westminster.

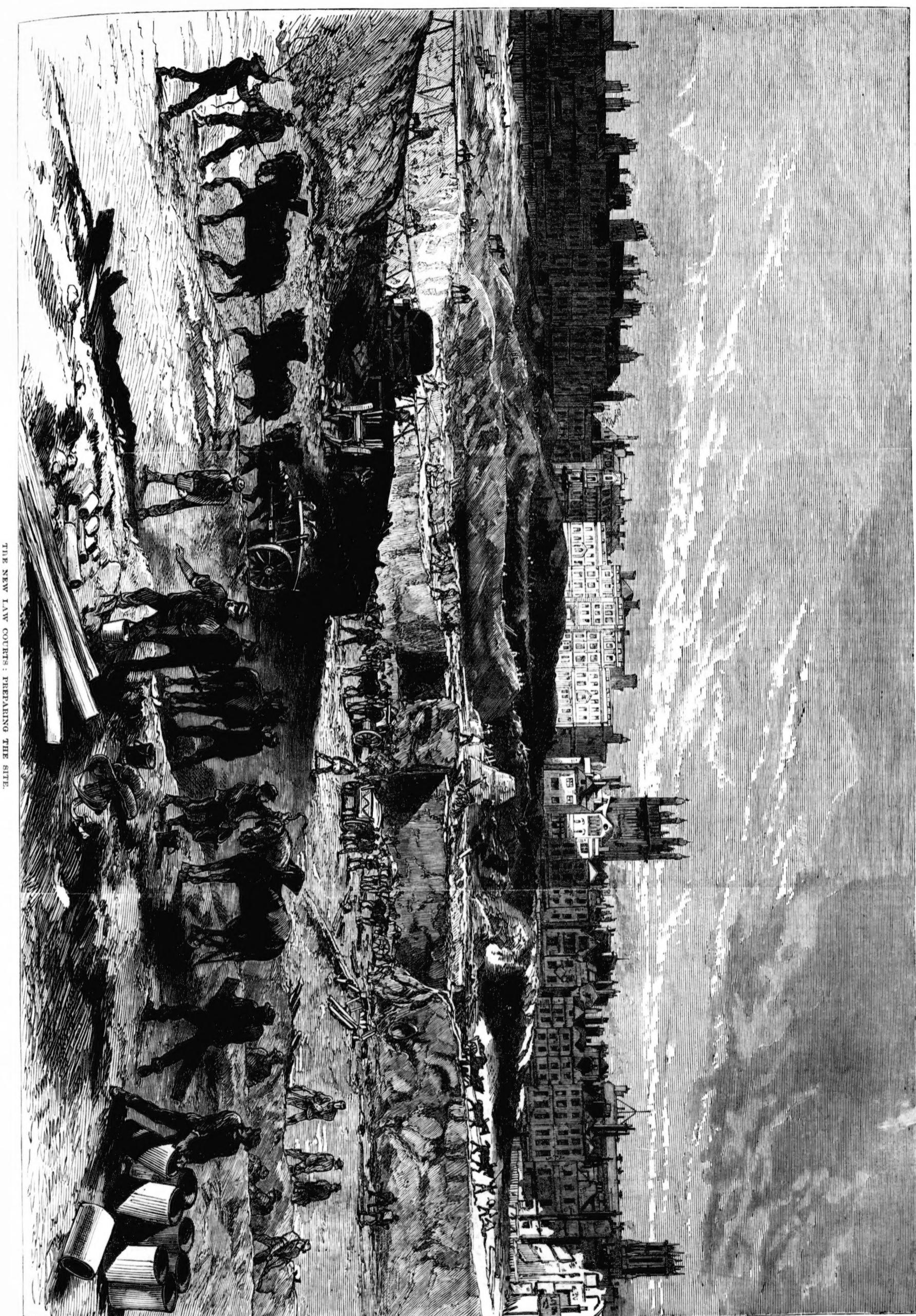
THE HIGH COMMISSION.—The distinguished services rendered by Lord De Grey in connection with the Treaty of Washington will, we are glad to know, meet with suitable recognition. The country will learn with pleasure that his Lordship is about to be raised to the rank of Marquis, under the title of Marquis of Ripon. This step will, we are sure, receive the warm approval of men of all parties, who will recognise the value of Lord De Grey's labours in the negotiations so happily completed, and the beneficial influence he has been enabled to exert in strengthening the bonds of amity between England and the United States. Lord Tenterden, who acted as secretary to the English members of the Joint High Commission, will be made a civil C.B.—*Telegraph*.



THE CIVIL WAR IN FRANCE: BARRICADE-FIGHTING AT ASNieres.—(SEE PAGE 372.)



BARRICADE IN THE RUE DE RIVOLI AND PLACE DE LA CONCORDE.—(SEE PAGE 372.)



THE LOUNGER.

I FORETOLD some weeks ago that Mr. Cardwell would have to split his Army Bill into two parts; pass the first part abolishing army purchase, and drop the other parts, which regulate the army. The prophecy has been or is to be fulfilled. The Abolition of Purchase Bill will, it is thought, get into the Upper House at the end of next week. It is rumoured that their Lordships will reject the bill. It is also confidently asserted that their Lordships will pass it, and that is my opinion. Army purchase is inexorably doomed, and is it likely that their Lordships, at the cost of confusion worse confounded in the Army, will postpone the execution? It is noticeable that their Lordships now seldom refuse to pass great Government bills; they are contented to fly at lesser game—private members' bills, Marriage of Deceased Wife's Sisters' Bills, &c. They threatened the University Tests Bill, but they have passed it without Lord Salisbury's amendments; indeed, with no important changes. The Opposition, no doubt, could have rejected the Commons' amendment, but they let us dare not wait upon we would, like prudent men. Would that the Tory Opposition in the Commons were so prudent! They, however, are rash, defiant, unscrupulous—more so this Session than ever. This rashness and unscrupulousness comes of their weakness. In a fair fight upon a Government matter they stand no chance. They have therefore taken to chicanery, manœuvring, and all sorts of dodgery. They cannot defeat a bill in open fight, but they can delay and obstruct it; and this disgraceful policy they have practised with marvellous ingenuity, not merely in the Army Bill struggle; almost all bills which they dislike but cannot defeat they thus obstruct by motions for adjournment or by talking against time.

Here is an example. The Endowed Schools Commissioners have sanctioned a statute by which membership of the Church of England is for the first time imposed as a qualification for appointment to the governing body of Harrow School. The Endowed Schools Act requires that statutes of this kind must lie upon the table of the House forty days that members disapproving any part of them may move her Majesty to disallow them. This statute is now upon the table, and has lain there twenty days. Mr. Trevelyan, on Tuesday night, attempted to call the attention of the House to it, and to move an address to her Majesty, and had a majority at his back to support him. But the Tory minority would not let him go on, and unless the Government should give him an evening or morning sitting he will not be able to get his motion discussed; and in that case this statute (albeit a majority of the House disapproves it) will become law. Sir Roundel Palmer may well ask, How is government to be carried on if the minority will not submit to the majority? We shall get to a dead-lock, and have to reform our Parliamentary rules in an unexpected manner.

Then, how imprudent and hypocritical these obstructions are! For weeks they have been obstructing, with a view to defeat, the Army Bill. But you should have seen and heard them on Monday when Mr. Gladstone announced that he could not hope to do more than pass the abolition of purchase clauses and two or three others relating to the militia. They were "astonished," "disgusted," "humiliated." Hypocrites! They have known for some time that this would be. Moreover, it is their conduct that has rendered this policy of the Government necessary. Disgusted they are, for they had hoped to defeat the whole bill, whereas they will have to swallow that part of it which they most detest. Indeed, the Army regulation part was quite a minor matter to them. What they most hated was that first part of the bill, which touched theirs or their friends' pockets and status.

I should not be surprised if Mr. Forster were to find it necessary to curtail his Elections, Parliamentary and Municipal, Bill. This bill is what is called the Ballot Bill; but there are many other matters in it besides the ballot—abolition of nominations, of paid canvassers, &c. The legalising voting by ballot is, however, the main object of the bill; and if Mr. Forster should meet with anything like the same opposition as Mr. Cardwell has had to encounter, the ballot clauses will be passed, and the rest postponed.

The Session will end, I suspect, about the same time as usual. "A barren Session," growls the *Times*; and of course the growl is echoed all over the kingdom. Well, the University Tests Bill is law; and, if we get vote by ballot and Army purchase abolished, the Session will not be, after all, so very barren, for these are really great measures—revolutionary measures they would have been called ten years ago. My opinion is that, if Parliament had passed no important bill but this Army Purchase Abolition Bill, the Session could not with truth be stigmatised as barren; for this, when we think of it, is a tremendous reform.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES, ETC.

The essay on "Class Morality," in the *St. Paul's Magazine*, is well worth reading; but it should have been weightier, or less weighty; and it runs far too easily into mere convention. The Scotch statistics referred to are judicial, not moral, in their bearing; and who on earth cares for the moral verdicts of "a commission"? I am not going to believe that "the members of the agricultural population in the north and east of Scotland" rank lower in the quality referred to than the "Irish peasant," whatever actions *contra bonos mores* he may be guilty of. One's experience in the matter of domestic servants goes a long way. It is the uniform report of those who are entitled to speak that the best girls are those whom the "report of a commission" would speak of as the Commission in question speaks of the Scottish peasantry. The truth is, bare facts of this kind go for nothing without a deal of sifting. The paper on "Misapplied Charities" is lamentably instructive.

In *Good Words for the Young*, that wonderful magazine for everybody with a class title, Charles Camden brings up "Hoity-Toity" again. It is a capital idea capitally wrought. The illustrations to this number are very good.

Mr. R. H. Horne, in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, has some pleasant things to say about John Kemble and his contemporaries. The reminiscences of Grimaldi are particularly interesting. But was it Byron who said hearing Edmund Kean was like reading Shakespeare by flashes of lightning? I have repeatedly seen the remark attributed to Coleridge.

The *English Mechanic and World of Science* I have before had occasion to speak of in high terms. It is, in fact, one of the most interesting of the magazines, not only because of the information it contains, but on account of the glimpses it frequently affords of the habits of thought of working men. The advertisements and the correspondence column are particularly suggestive.

"Ought We to Visit Her?" is still the attraction in *Temple Bar*, though to my thinking nothing can make entirely inclusive story which turns upon the "love" of a man for a married woman. True, there is no vice in this story, and the passion of Randon for Mrs. Theobald is a sort of mere calf-love; but there is something unpleasant about all such machinery. The more credit to the authoress for the skill with which she works it.

The *Food Journal* keeps up, and is good; but it ought to be much better. Could not the cookery receipts be made more of a "feature"?

The *Sunday Magazine* is hardly so good as usual. The paper entitled "Some Songs of the Soul" is surely in rather questionable taste. With the praise of Mr. Monks' verses I hope few will agree. To me they are exceedingly mechanical and unpleasant. Here is a specimen:—

Why should I cast behind me
The hope that may be mine?
When God hath not resigned me,
Shall I my God resign?

This is an obvious case of the rhyme suggesting the thought, and a very bad case too. Still worse is a "poem" by the same writer,

in another periodical, about a child. In that we find such rhymes as these:—

Though but pretty nonsense
It to some may prove,
Seems it not in one sense
Wisdom from above?

Nobody doubts the sincere interest of the writer; but such verses were never yet produced by any man in a perfectly truthful mood. There were some rhymes in this excellent periodical not long ago, also by the same writer, in which the child was taught to consider his father's anger as a type of the Divine displeasure, and his mother's interference to mitigate that anger and ward off some of the consequences as a type of a certain other intercession. What ideas people do carry in their bemuddled brains! This is worse than even the ever-celebrated Zaleucus, King of the Locrians. I used to have both those preposterous and essentially vulgar "illustrations" flung at my head when a little boy, and am happy to remember that I was wont to treat them with open scorn. True, I then got other things thrown at my head, occasionally; but, as Mr. F.'s aunt said of poor Clennam, "I hate a fool," and the scorn was just.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Entering the *ROYALTY* on the first night of the new management, it would not have required a great stretch of the imagination to believe that London was far away and that I had strolled into a country theatre. Two or three miserable men huddled together, apparently for warmth, in the stalls; and I noticed a deserted pit, a thinly-populated gallery, and a "beggarly array of empty boxes." It was not an encouraging sight. The performances were curiously unequal. It served the *jeunesse doré* right to lose some good acting when their young lordships and gentlemen put in an appearance in time to see one of the worst burlesques which has disgraced the stage within my memory. It is a more cheerful task to tell of Dr. Westland Marston's graceful two-act comedy called "Lamed for Life"—an acceptable trifle; not, perhaps, altogether well constructed, and occasionally a little talky-talky, but on the whole, for the sake of its tone and occasional vigour, a vast improvement on the stuff I have been compelled to sit out lately. Dr. Marston does not descend to scatter sugarplums of fine talk over his play, but allows his good things to come in when they are wanted, and to appear in their proper place. The hero of "Lamed for Life" is a young doctor who has become a cripple through saving the life of a little child during a fire in which the infant was in danger. His delicate situation towards the girl he loved before the accident occurred is the foundation-stone of the comedy; and it will be guessed how he, over sensitive through his misfortune, imagines his loved one is faithless. Appearances are certainly against Miss Elliott, who encourages the visits of a mysterious stranger, known by the lame doctor to be a reprobate and outcast. It turns out, however, that the reprobate is Miss Elliott's brother-in-law, and that she is attempting to reform him and to bring the black sheep into a clean fold. This difficulty removed, there is nothing for the doctor to do but to urge his suit with the same energy and dillidance as was shown by Philip Wakeham in George Eliot's celebrated novel. He is successful, and the play ends with a pretty picture of domestic happiness. It is a long time since I have seen so finished and admirable a specimen of acting as that shown by Miss Ada Cavendish as the heroine. The scene in which she, half in tears half in laughter, accepts the cripple is quite beautiful. Sweet voiced, well dressed, undeniably intelligent, and improving every day, Miss Cavendish for this delicious performance deserves the thanks of all who appreciate true art. I was equally surprised with Mr. Forrester as the lame hero. I wonder he is not seen more frequently. Mr. Forrester has modelled his style on that of Mr. Hermann Vezin, and in this play he was particularly happy. Mr. Vincent—the well-known Mr. George Vincent, of the Olympic, who made a hit with Melton Moss in the "Ticket-of-Leave Man," and never did anything either before or since—made a good character quite impossible. Randon, according to Dr. Marston, is a good type of character carefully brought out, and capable of being made very effective. In Mr. Vincent's hands he is a ridiculous ruffian, badly dressed, impertinent, and a nuisance. Such a misconception of a character has rarely been seen. Mr. Arden's burlesque of "Nell Gwynne" is enough to sink any management. Ill-written, full of uninteresting songs and music, badly acted, badly rehearsed, and, for many reasons, painful, such a piece degrades a theatre as much as it degrades the stage. There is nothing improper in it; but, for dullness and drivelling inanity, nothing has surely been seen like "Nell Gwynne" for years. It is really so bad that even swells turn up their noses at it. When matters come to this pitch they are serious.

Mr. Falconer, the irrepressible comedian, intends to try another chance with "Eileen Oge," at the PRINCESS'S. I hope it will turn out a better speculation than the last.

There is now on view at Willis's Rooms one of those curious freaks of nature which are interesting to physiologists but are scarcely suitable as popular exhibitions. I refer to the "Two-headed Nightingale combination," a very curious phenomenon of the Siamese twins type, which men may go to see if they like, but from viewing which I think women will do well to abstain.

POLICE FINANCE.

THE accounts of the Receiver of the Metropolitan Police, recently laid before Parliament, show that during the past year 9098 officers and constables have been employed for police purposes in the metropolitan district and in the various dockyards throughout the kingdom. The total sum expended for police purposes between April 1, 1870, and March 31, 1871, was £858,831 19s., giving an average of £94 8s. per man. It thus appears that the cost of a policeman is within a small fraction the same as that of a soldier; but with this important difference—that in the police accounts by far the largest item (£605,761 2s. 11d.) is distributed as pay amongst the constables and the officers who have risen from the ranks. Thus the minimum pay of a police-constable is £1 per week, rising by various gradations to £375 per annum—the maximum salary of a superintendent. To this must be added the clothing, which is provided for all the force; whilst in addition married men, or those living out of stations, receive 4d. per week in lieu of coal. The private soldier, on the other hand, commences at something less than 8s. per week, from which innumerable stoppages are made on one pretence or another, and the extreme limit to which he can hope to attain is that of sergeant-major, when he will receive the magnificent pay of £60 per annum, less deductions.

But if the police have reason to congratulate themselves on their comparative good luck, we doubt if the public fully realises the growing cost of its civil army. In 1840, 4328 policemen were maintained at an average cost of £67 16s. per man; in 1850, 5492 men, at about £68 per man; and in 1860, 5986, at £79 6s. per man. The largest increase was thus in the decennial period 1850-60; for although the actual cost in the subsequent period shows a further increase of nearly 20 per cent, this is caused chiefly by the large additional police station-houses in course of erection, the cost of which is thrown upon the police funds, and also by the very substantial increase made within the last few years to the pay of the men in the force. To what, then, is to be attributed this constantly increasing cost of a necessary body of men? We reply, to the want of proper independent control over the police funds. As is well known, the metropolitan police is maintained partly by local rates and partly by a grant from the Treasury out of the Imperial funds. The whole area within the bounds of the police district is assessed from time to time, and on the gross rental a rate for police purposes is levied. The rates levied on the various parishes at 6d. in the pound amounted in the past year to £564,957 7s. on an aggregate rental of £20,087,597; whilst the Treasury, at the rate of 2d. in the pound, contributed the sum of £186,878 6s. 4d., to which must

be added additional allowances for the expenses of the Horse Patrol and Thames Police (salaries of the officers appointed under Act of Parliament, &c.), amounting to nearly £30,000 more. The Treasury, having once satisfied itself that the three fourths of the assessment chargeable on the rates have been received from the parishes, pays over its quota, and washes its hands of all further responsibility in the matter. Formerly, the whole management of the police funds was removed as much as possible from the control of the only department in the State which had any special financial knowledge. The Secretary of State for the Home Department was nominally charged with the general supervision and control of all expenditure connected with the police. The result has been that police expenditure has been left to take care of itself. Any attempt to bring something like method into its system has been strenuously opposed by the authorities in Scotland-yard and Whitehall-place. The obvious method for bringing the whole police expenditure under the control of the Treasury is for Parliament to insist upon having all the receipts from the parishes paid into the Exchequer as extra receipts, and then to vote year by year the amount required for police purposes. The Foreign Office, the Consular Service, the Board of Trade, and the Revenue departments have each in their turn had to submit to this only method of ensuring economy and efficiency; and it seems unintelligible that the Police Service, with its enormous and yearly-increasing expenditure, should have escaped so long. A strong argument in favour of some such immediate change for the future, as well as for an inquiry into the past, is to be found in the history of the Police Superannuation Fund. According to the return just laid before Parliament, a sum of £87,492 11s. 1d. has been expended in superannuations and gratuities during the year ending March 31 last. This charge is met by stoppages from the pay of police-constables, fines levied for drunkenness, assaults on the police, &c., but chiefly from a transfer from the General Police Fund to make good the deficiency which would otherwise exist. The police are entitled to superannuation allowances under a special Act of Parliament (2nd and 3rd Vict., c. 47) which enacts that the money received from the above-mentioned sources shall from time to time be invested in Government Stocks, and the interest and dividends thereof applied to the payment of such superannuations as may be ordered by the Secretary of State. For the first few years the terms of the Act were complied with, and in 1848 the Sinking Fund already amounted to nearly £100,000. Whether this sum seemed to Sir George Grey, who was then Home Secretary, large enough for all possible requirements, or whether, smarting under Mr. Joseph Hume's invectives against the profligate expenditure of the Government, we cannot decide; but, at all events, we find, upon looking back to the published accounts of the police, that in 1850 the Secretary of State, wholly ignoring the Act of Parliament by which his power over the fund was constituted, directed that the fines and stoppages, instead of being invested, should be applied to the current expenses of the year. From an illegal connivance to an arbitrary usurpation of authority the step is not great; and we are not, therefore, surprised to find that in 1854 the Secretary of State, not content with having stopped all further means of sustaining the Police Superannuation Fund, determined summarily to dispose of what had been already accumulated. In 1857 the Sinking Fund had wholly disappeared. Had it been maintained in accordance with the Act, which, as far as we can trace, has never been repealed, it would at this moment have amounted to at least half a million, the interest of which would go far to relieve the Police Fund from the burden now thrown upon it for non-effective services. Moreover, it is clear that even at the present time, the interest on the Sinking Fund being equal to the gross amount of the fines and stoppages now misappropriated, the charge upon the Police Fund would be in no degree increased, and a time when an appreciable lighting of the charge for superannuations by means of the interest on the Sinking Fund might be reasonably anticipated. Such is a plain history of another Sinking Fund upon which the Government has recklessly laid hands in order to meet the present needs of the day, and with no care for the morrow. Ratepayers and taxpayers are alike interested in having this matter cleared up; and although Mr. Goschen has seen fit to withdraw his bill, there is no reason why the Metropolitan Police Fund should be allowed to continue in its present unsatisfactory condition.—*Daily News*.

INCOME TAX ARREARS.

ALONG with a good many others, we were a good deal surprised to hear in the recent Budget discussions that, notwithstanding Mr. Lowe's reforms in 1869, there is still a large portion of the income tax which remains as an arrear from one year to another. We calculated that an addition of 2d. to the income tax, yielding £3,000,000, would give Mr. Lowe £337,000 more than he wanted, his deficit being only £2,713,000; but the reply was that 2d. additional would just be enough, because of the arrears. An additional penny, it was said, is not so productive in the first year as it is afterwards, because there is no arrear upon it from a previous year. Thus Mr. Lowe's reform is incomplete, though matters are not so bad as they were when one half of the taxes did not become due till April. But why should there be any arrears? Most business men would conclude that there should be no difficulty in getting in before March 31 money which is due on Jan. 1, especially where the collector is the Government, with special powers to enforce payment which ordinary people do not possess. If the money is not got in we can only imagine that there is some inexcusable defect in the machinery of assessment and collection, which gives rise to delay, and, we fear, to ultimate loss. There is direct evidence, however, that there is no inherent difficulty in the collection, and that the income and assessed taxes might really be paid in full long before March 31. In 1865 there was considerable discussion on this very point, and a return was then obtained which demonstrates that in Scotland, where the system of making the income and assessed taxes fall due on Jan. 1 was then at work, it was not only found possible but easy to obtain the money long before March 31. We beg to call the attention of Mr. Lowe and the Department of Inland Revenue to this return. Of the total estimated charge for land, assessed, and income taxes for the year 1864-5, amounting to £858,850, the sum of £849,966, or about 99 per cent, was actually collected and received into the Exchequer before March 1. Of the remainder, the sum of £4384 fell to be deducted for appeal and relief lists, so that only £4500, or less than 1 per cent, remained outstanding on March 1. The collection was in fact "closed" at that date everywhere throughout Scotland, except in the following places:—Ayr and Arran, Lanark and Dumbarton, and Stornoway; and in these three districts the amounts collected were respectively 99·71 per cent, 98·06 per cent, and 81·38 per cent of the whole charge. Practically, therefore, even in the districts where the collection was open, the money had been got in—the whole collection in Stornoway, where nearly 20 per cent remained out, being only £1233. The return, moreover, is in considerable detail, showing in respect of each county how much was got in before the 3rd, the 10th, the 17th, the 23rd, and the 31st days of January. Substantially all the money was well got in before the latter date, the only districts where the collection was not closed having nevertheless yielded the following percentages of the entire charge:—Edinburgh, 98·41 per cent; Dumfries, 98·16 per cent; Ayr and Arran, 97·92 per cent; Renfrew and Bute, 95·40 per cent; Lanark and Dumbarton, 90·84 per cent; Orkney and Zetland, 90·16 per cent; Inverary, 88·17 per cent; Stornoway, 81·33 per cent. The Inland Revenue Department, therefore, should be called on to explain why it is impossible to do in England in three months what is done north of the Tweed in two or even in one month. The only suggestion of an explanation that has been made to us is that the collections in England are larger; but that is really no answer, as collection is only a matter of machinery, and the collectors should be proportioned to the number of accounts. In point of fact,

Ans. Liverpool, Perth, and Edinburgh are quite big
and London counties, and the size of the collection
is small. Mr. Lowe had only thought of it,
but I part of his difficulty this year by
the fact of it with this difference—that he
had to pay for it, whereas before he
had not to pay for it. But the opportunity may

THE DUTCH IN PARIS

the contents of the English papers
concerning the atrocities, the accounts of the
screams which they witnessed, and
the agonies of the men, women, and children
Frenchman is probably a type of his country-
men. For his sake that he talks about what he has
written that I am aware of has ever said
about the Tuilleries, and, as he puts it, the
French would not be expected that the troops
would give no quarter was
such deeds, done in hot blood, hor-
rible as are common incidents in warfare;
and, I might regret to find a regular
Frenchman, they would hardly be surprised
at the correspondents saw with feelings
of the want of people on a mere hue-
and cry, or having thrown petroleum,
and a shower of blows from the ruthless
and had tamely put up with the Com-
mune dross. To make my meaning clear, I

instances. At the corner of Rue Godot-Nave and Mathurins there was a barricade, and away when the troops came up in the afternoon of Tuesday, May 23, I said. It was not until the following day that neighbouring houses were searched, and a boy in the uniform of the *Chasseurs à Cheval* was found. The men pleaded pitifully for their lives, and said his master resisted to the last, and that he was unarmed; and all the seven men were shot. I am not sure if any of the others were killed. But what will you say? At a house, No. 7, Rue Perronet, there was a family of Gladys, who were trying to escape, but were forced to return. I helped them to get away, and had to run for my life. The troops searched the houses, the street, and, I must listen to the story, were beaten out. On Saturday, the 27th, I saw a young man pass along the Rue de la Paix, and he said to me, "W. Constant, that is a murderer's shop. "Don't be afraid of me. He was shouting, and a couple of hours later I saw him executed two blocks away. His only proved to be strictly political, and at some deplorables, over me, and over a number of others, a nervous execution, were carried out, rather mad. As regard the women, they were about with bottles of petroleum, to set fire to all I can say is that I have seen what has made the old cry of "A witch!" with us. An ugly old man, who had been混同 with the crowd, was liable to be shot, and was thus butchered. The "French" were full of blood and brutal ferocity which may not have been sicken with day after day. I suppose that he did not see either because he was airing the *topis* of Versailles, or the terrace of St. Germain, possibly, had not emerged from his own cellar. I add that, so far as I have seen, the correspondents of the press have rather underrated than overstated what has been done. I am concerned, I have never reported any, if, and carried even my scruples so far as to the wholesale butcheries which a well-known military of, and from which a former officer in our service by something little short of a miracle. As far as I could not, that I ever saw, exhibit any ferocity, to the cowardly curs who were crying "Vive la Commune" every day before they came in. Had all the insurgents to death I should not say a word. Such atrocities are the business of war; but what I do say is that those who sacrificed without their executioners taking the trouble to ascertain their identity. The glamour of the mob was a shield of guilt.—Correspondent of the

was arrested in the Rue de la Roquette, accused of being a spy, and sent to execution; her child, a little girl of three or four years old, was dressed in her mother's petticoats. No sooner had she been taken into a court—from a window of which a informant saw what followed—than she was shot. The child, which had been seated on a chair when the latter was led out to be shot, was shot in the other parts of the muskets. An American soldier, who had been standing by and shot the child through the heart with his revolver. This sounds almost incredible; but, nevertheless, I do not doubt that it is true. A few days ago, I heard that there is one of the kindest-hearted men in Paris, a man of forty or two ago, that some hours before the execution of the session of the Château de la Muette, he had been heard in a cupboard. Several hundred National Guards were dragged into the hall and lined up, by Dombrowski's order, for execution. "What do you do to them?" I asked. "Do they shoot them?" "why, shot them, of course." The man then told the story of an unfortunate man, who had been condemned at the Ecole Militaire because he had informed him to the soldiers as being a spy of the Commune. In spite of his protestations, it has since been proved that he was a

... with no one out of the ranks of the *bourgeoisie* to tell some story; and, however large an allowance we make for exaggeration, not only is it proved that great numbers have been shown in many cases, but the fact that such a widely spread among the working classes is significant, and that the less powerful for being founded on a *fact* and *not* a *feast*; and I fear the *avocettes* of to-day are not far from repeating the days of May, '71, as their fathers did in '48. When the Versailles troops took possession of Paris, the first order one of their first acts was to surround the printing-office of the *Paris-Soir*, and the *Soiristes*, who were most hostile to the *commune*, in common with all the members of their craft, on the 1st of June, were, nevertheless, marched off to the *île* de la *Île* de la *Pelée*, sent, some to pontoons at the *île* of the *Île* *Pelée*. In spite of all the *Soiristes*' efforts, his unfortunate master, the *Soir* company with returned capital,

... and the sullen are likely to have any part in it. The result is Government when they are not in a position of confinement. The comic side of the situation is to appear just as usual, though no charge has been brought against the *Advertiser* to this day. I have no idea to know of what the comic side of the case is. The writers of a newspaper in *Corrientes*, deal of the "Daily News,"

Literature.

The Life and Letters of Hugh Miller. By PETER BAYNE, M.A.
Two vols. London: Strahan and Co.

Good biography is, perhaps, the most perm

Good biography is, perhaps, the most permanently attractive kind of reading in existence. Many people cannot settle at all to the perusal of poetry, scientific and philosophical treatises, criticism, and even history; and upon a larger number still these topics, if tackled at all, very soon pall. Novels themselves become tiresome in course of time. But biography has a never-failing interest for general readers. Indeed, it may be said that history itself derives its chief source of attraction from its biographical element. And the reason of this is not far to seek. Men and women usually feel more interest in the sayings and doings of men and women than they do in the habits of plants, the composition of the earth, the arrangements of the stellar system, and so forth. In other words, humanity sympathises more strongly with humanity than it does with anything else. For the same reason, the animal world has more students, conscious or unconscious, than has either the mineral or the vegetable kingdom, animated nature appealing to our sympathies more directly, and therefore more intensely, than inanimate things possibly can do. Hence it is that even bad biographies often command (for a time, at least) larger numbers of readers than the very ablest treatises on themes in which human action has no part, and that, as we have said, good biography is the most permanently attractive description of literature. We will be bold to say that for one man who has studied the "Principia" there are at least a hundred who are familiar with the life of Newton, and that thousands have read Boswell's "Life of Johnson" for every one who has perused "Rasselas."

But, of course, there are degrees of excellence, and consequently of attractiveness, in biography as in other things. There are piles on piles of biographies that are not worth reading, that should never have been written, and that are utterly forgotten. In fact, biography, because of its attractiveness, has, perhaps, been more grossly abused than any other kind of composition—poetry not even excepted, and that is saying a good deal. But, give a fitting subject and a competent biographer, the result is certain to be as we have stated. In the work before us both these essentials are present: Hugh Miller was a fitting subject for biography, and Mr. Bayne is a thoroughly competent biographer. Need we add that the outcome of this happy combination is a most admirable and, as we believe, a permanently attractive book?

valuable and honourable career. The life of Miller, physical and mental, from birth to that melancholy close—the wayward boyhood; the school days, in which little was learned (not even grammar and spelling); the apprenticeship as a stonemason, during which much valuable knowledge and still more valuable moral training were acquired; the period of journeymanship, the crude beginnings of authorship, and the attainment of perfection in the craft, hard work, geological study, book writing, journalism, and leadership in a great ecclesiastical movement (the disruption of the Scottish Establishment and the foundation of the Free Church), co-operation and co-equal working with Chalmers, Candlish, Brewster, Cunningham, Guthrie, and other worthies—is here detailed by Mr. Bayne with a loving and yet a discriminating hand. We have specimens of Miller's early literary efforts, together with his letters in matured years, and are enabled to trace the growth of almost untutored genius from the impromptu dramas of boyhood to his finished work in the "Old Red Sandstone," "My Schools and School-masters," and the elaborately polished journalistic essays which graced the columns of the *Witness* newspaper. In all this, two things especially strike the reader:—First, how it came to pass that the boy who could not be made to learn to spell and could not be induced to master the first rudiments of grammar should have developed into one of the most perfect masters of English prose composition the nine-

teenth century has produced; and, second, how the author of the metrical effusions printed by Mr. Bayne ever came to be thought a poet—either by himself or his friends. That Miller possessed the imaginative faculty in a high degree his prose works testify; that he was a great reader and a keen appreciator of poetry his letters everywhere show; but that he lacked the power of rhythmical expression is clear from almost every verse he wrote—at least, that seems to us to be demonstrated by the specimens here given, both of juvenile and mature efforts. Assuredly, Hugh Miller's forte in literary composition lay not in verse-making; while it as assuredly did lie in elegant, polished, and poetical prose writing. He failed also to perceive the full signification of the grand ecclesiastical movement he helped to inaugurate and aided in guiding: namely, that, while protesting in favour of the principle of Church Establishments, the Free Church afforded the best possible exemplification of the excellence of the voluntary system; but that was a defect he shared in common with all his co-workers. But, poet or no poet, mistaken theorist though sound practical worker, Miller was a true man, a good man, a great man—an honour to the land of his birth, to Great Britain, to humanity; and in these two handsome volumes Mr. Bayne—himself, we believe, a self-taught man—has reared a worthy memorial to a name that will be venerated and loved whenever and wherever excellence and genius are held in reverence.

By-the-by, it may be worth while noting that the alleged decadence and political effacement of England among nations, about which so much has been said of late, are not new notions. Miller preached the same doctrines so long ago as 1826, because English statesmen of that day did not see reason for actively aiding the Greeks in their war of independence, which had fired him with enthusiasm, as it did other generous hearts. This he did in a somewhat turgid ode sent to the editor of the *Scotsman*, but which that Wicked Trojan, Terrible Turk, or what you will, did not think fit to publish; and we cannot help thinking that subsequent events in Greece have justified both the statesmen and the *Scotsman*. At all events, it is some consolation amid the jeremiads we have to listen to in these days, to find that the aforesaid processes of "decadence" and "effacement" are of so slow operation; and we may venture to hope that as Great Britain played a not unimportant part in European affairs after 1826, in spite of the prognostications of Hugh Miller, she may not sink into utter insignificance after 1871—Mr. Matthew Arnold and other prophets of evil to the contrary notwithstanding.

Akbaros Kassis the Kopt. A Romance of Modern Egypt. By EDWIN DE LEON, late U.S. Consul-General for Egypt. London: Chapman and Hall.

pleasure. Miss Priscilla Primmings, his sister-in-law, angular, bony, sour of countenance, wearing spectacles—"a strong-minded woman of the purest Boston school, which takes its metaphysics from Emerson, its morals from Theodore Parker, its manners from the Puritan Fathers, and which finally considers there can be no salvation out of New England." Edith, daughter of Mr. van Camp, a fresh, young, and lovely American girl, whose education has not developed romantic notions. Harry van Camp, her brother, with a strong family likeness to his portly progenitor sharpened into American angularity, and with an extensive get-up in the shape of a tourist's suit. Sir Charles Aylmer, a travelling acquaintance of the family—"a tall man, of aristocratic face and mien, whose costume and long yellow whiskers—no less than the many straps that crossed and recrossed his chest, supporting spyglass and all the other paraphernalia of a British tourist—spoke him unmistakably an Englishman." Askaros Kassis, a young Copt of high mark in Grand Cairo, formerly at Eton with young Harry van Camp, but now returned to his Eastern associations: with "a face a painter or sculptor would have looked on with rapture, so perfect was the outline of the clean cut, delicate features"—a face, "the character of which was given by the eye, large, black, and lustrous, with slumbering depths of unrevealed passion lurking in it." Askaros the Khanadar, father of Askaros Kassis, a high Oriental, of great wealth. El Warda, his adopted daughter, "a true Eastern beauty—a type of the women who, though 'soft as the roses they twine' to all outward appearance, yet conceal under that lazy languor passions volcanic in their fierceness when once awakened by love or jealousy." Ben Moussa, the Israelite, the intimate friend of the old Askaros, looking "the type of what the genius of Michael Angelo has made living marble in the statue of Moses in the Church of San Pietro in Vinculis—so solemn, sad, and majestic were his face and mien." Daoud-ben-Youssouf, a Syrian, confidential secretary to old Askaros, and in love with El Warda; jealous of Askaros Kassis, and treacherous to father and son; with "a brow as smooth and a face and form as still as though no moral tempest were making havoc and howling wildly through his soul." Abbas Pacha, the former Viceroy of Egypt, cruel, voluptuous, brutal, and tyrannical, hating Askaros Kassis, who acts as the Coptish interpreter to the English Consul, and is therefore under British protection." The Princess Nezli Khanum, who, among that evil family, bore a name exceptionally evil; "but such was her craft and talent, so great was her energy and influence, even over Abbas, that she wielded a power and inspired a dread in Egypt second only to that entertained for him." Nubian servants, attendants, slaves, executioners, dancing-girls, eunuchs, wild Arabs, sheikhs, and an Orientalised Frenchwoman, the trusted confidante of Nezli Khanum, make up the rest of the dramatis personae. The scenes—Cairo, the Desert, Venice, the interior of the house of Askaros, of the palace of Abbas Pacha, and of Nezli Khanum. Such are the actors and the venue of as romantic a story as ever kept a young lady awake or led her to sit reading by the flame of a rushlight long after the rest of the family had gone to bed. Poison, bowstrings, bastinados, abduction, serpent-charming, and the inner life of the harem, are in themselves elements of enchantment; but to these are added love, jealousy, hatred, treachery, ambition, conspiracy, assassination, retribution, under the fascinating conditions of Eastern intrigue and counterplot. At the end of the volume the lovers are made happy, but it is always at the expense of somebody else; and we cannot feel quite sure that we are able to forgive them, while there is a lurking suspicion that their happiness will not last after all. As a graphic picture of the more private aspects of life in Cairo, and as a rather powerful "romance of modern Egypt," the book will find readers who may also appreciate the rather theatrical style in which it is written.

Fra Dolcino, and Other Poems. By A. and L., Authors of "War Lyrics," and "Hannibal: a Drama." London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

A book to which the first poem gives the title, though it consists of several compositions, one of which—"The Lost Son"—is dramatic in form. A book on almost every page of which there are evidences not only of rare poetic faculty, but of great strength of expression and deep thought. Seldom has a single volume of poems by author or authors, anonymous except by initials, been so well worthy of a careful perusal. The poems by "A," occupying the first part of the volume, are of a higher order—or perhaps we should say of a higher form—than those by "L," which are in the latter portion. The latter, except "The Lost Son," are of a ballad character, with here and there that picturesquesque ruggedness and apparent neglect of rhythm which is a feature of some of the genuine old poem-tales of all countries. "Fra Dolcino" and "Bernado del Carpio" are the two works which occupy the most important place. They are respectively divided into several parts, each of which is in itself a picture fully framed and fine in its colour and intensity. We will not quote, but leave the reader to select where he is sure to admire.

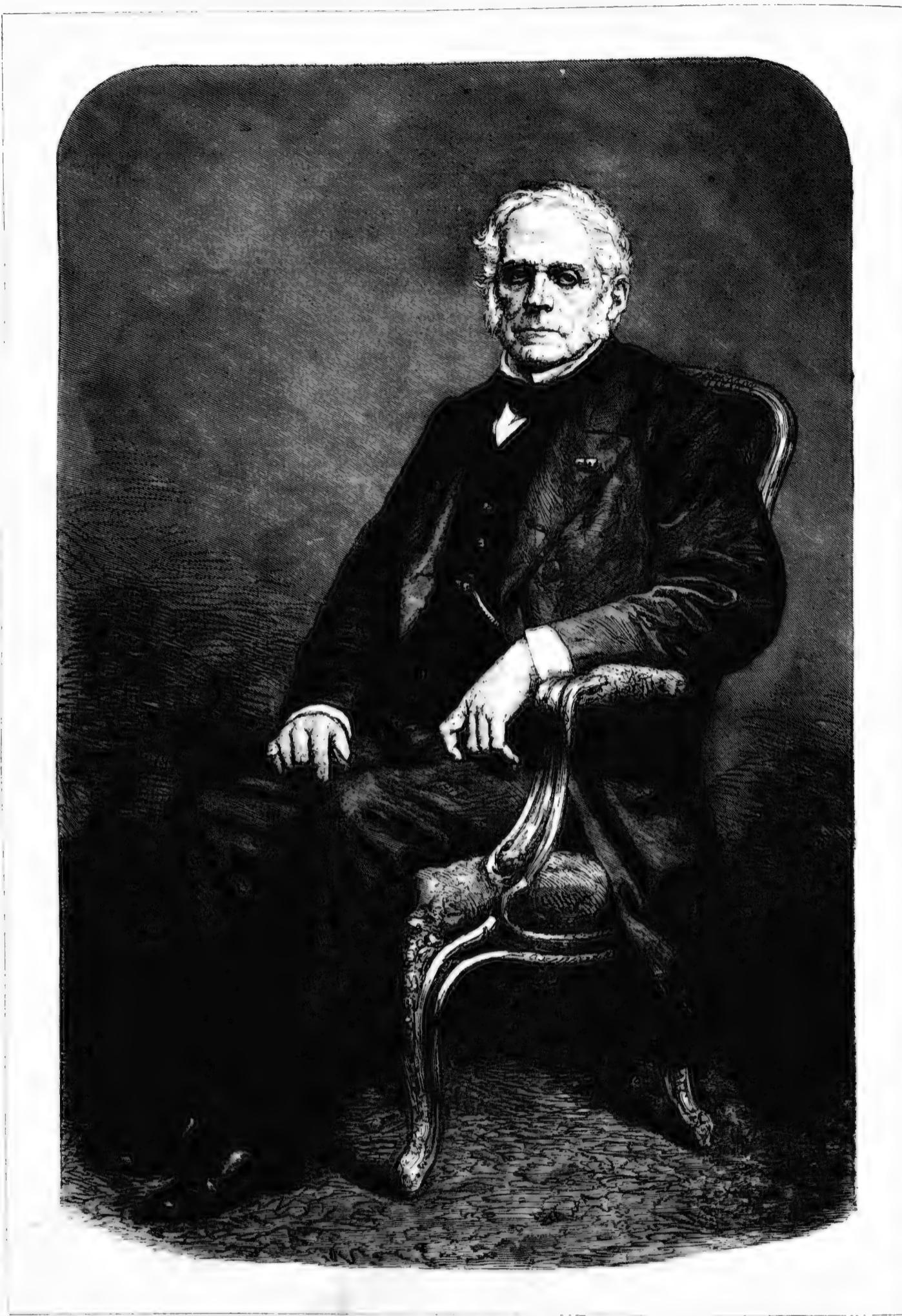
HARDWICKE'S SHILLING BOOKS OF REFERENCE.

Hardwicke's "Shilling Peerage," "Shilling Baronetage," "Shilling Knightage," and "Shilling House of Commons," are already so well known that, in connection with the editions just issued, we need only say that the editor, Mr. Edward Walford, has been careful to bring down his information to the latest period, and that these books will be exceedingly useful to those who cannot afford more elaborate works of the same class.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.—Last week the aggregate mortality in London and nineteen other large towns of the United Kingdom was at the rate of 25 deaths annually to every 1000 of the estimated population. In the metropolis 2132 births and 1437 deaths were registered, the former having exceeded by 13, and the latter by 92, the average number. Zymotic diseases caused 418 deaths, including 215 from smallpox, 23 from measles, 34 from scarlet fever, 6 from diphtheria, 32 from whooping-cough, 30 from different forms of fever (of which four were certified as typhus, 12 as enteric or typhoid, and 14 as simple contended fever). With respect to smallpox, the fatal cases in the north districts were not quite so numerous as in the previous week; while they showed an increase in each of the other groups of districts. The greatest fatality was shown in St. Pancras, Walworth, and Battersea; in the latter sub-district, of 28 deaths 13 resulted from smallpox—equal to an annual rate of 12 per 1000 of the population.

BANKRUPT PEERS.—The Bankruptcy Disqualification Bill, which has passed the House of Lords, disqualifies from sitting or voting in that House every peer who becomes a bankrupt, including any peer whose affairs are liquidated by arrangement under the Bankruptcy Act; as to Scotland, a delivery awarding sequestration is to disqualify. The term "peer" is to include any lord of Parliament. The bill enacts that "a writ of summons shall not be issued to any peer" while thus dis-qualified. The disqualification is to cease on the bankruptcy being determined, either by its being annulled or the bankrupt being discharged from his debts by payment or satisfaction, or in the modes prescribed by the statutes in force. The bill is to apply to any person already bankrupt, or to any person "who before or after the passing of this Act becomes bankrupt, and subsequently succeeds to peerage," whose bankruptcy has not determined at the time of

THAMES EMBANKMENT.—We are informed that a compromise has been proposed on the Thames Embankment question, by which the vacant space claimed by the Crown, with the exception of a small triangular strip of ground at the Westminster Bridge end, would be converted into a garden easily accessible to, if not thrown open to, the general public. We doubt how far this arrangement would meet the wishes of the ratepayers. At the same time, the position of the Government, who are trustees at once for the public and the Crown, is a very difficult one. What London wants is not the establishment of a technical privilege, but the full possession of the ground created at the expense of the citizens. This enjoyment is interfered with not only by the claims of the Crown, but by those of many other parties possessing vested interests in the soil reclaimed from the river. Probably the most satisfactory solution of the difficulty would be the appointment of a committee to determine what would be the best way to secure the full use of the Embankment for London, without any infringement of the rights of the Crown.



THE LATE M. AUBER.

THE LATE M. AUBER.

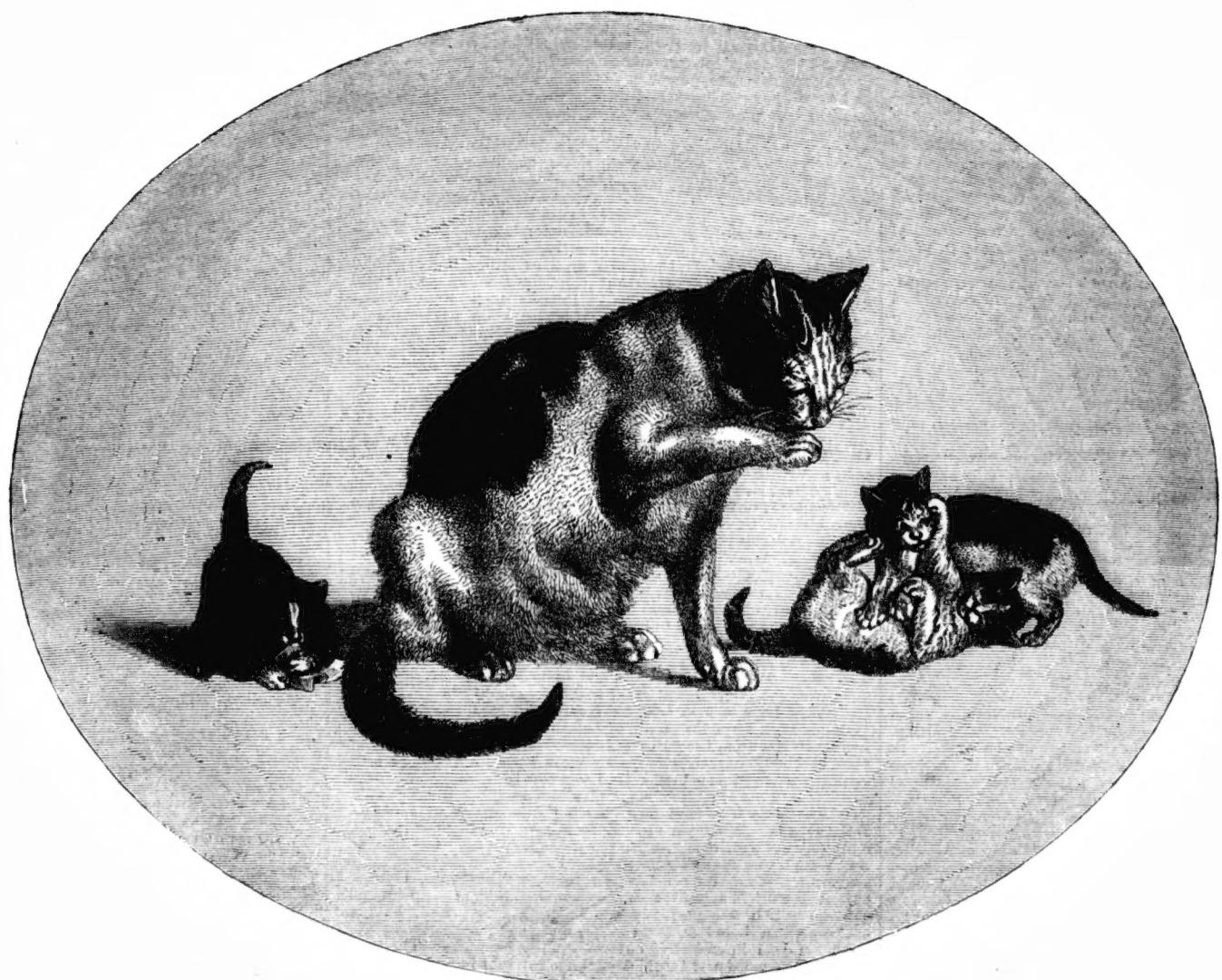
In a late Number we published a pretty full memoir of the greatest of all French musicians, Daniel François Esprit Auber, of whom we this week lay a Portrait before our readers. The year 1784 has generally been given as the date of his birth, but the event is placed two years earlier by Féétis, in the new edition of his "Biographie Universelle des Musiciens," on the authority of Auber's father. There have been few musicians who have attained so great an age, one of the most remarkable instances of longevity among this class having been that of Gossec, who numbered ninety-six years. Of all those whom the world esteems as great composers, Auber is the most remarkable example of extended life. Not only was his a long career, it was also a very active one, even up to within two years of his death—his last stage works, "Le Premier Jour de Bonheur" and "Rêve d'Amour" having been produced in 1868 and 1869.

Auber was born at Caen, in the year already stated. Like the lives of most men engaged in calm, artistic pursuits, his was uneventful in all but a professional sense, in which respect it was a continued course of successful activity, commenced, it is true, somewhat later than in the cases of most of the composers really

worthy of the epithet "great." At first intended for commercial pursuits, and placed when a youth in a London counting-house, young Auber soon conceived a dislike to business routine; and, after a course of study under Cherubini, and consequent on some decline in family prosperity, he made a profession of an art which he had hitherto cultivated as an amateur. His earliest efforts as a dramatic composer were not successful. The one-act operetta "Le Séjour Militaire," produced in 1813, made no impression. Neither did a similar piece—"Le Testament, ou les Billets-Doux"—in 1819. The first dawn of the splendid career which Auber was destined to run opened with the success of his "La Bergère Châtelaine," in 1820, and "Emma, ou la Promesse Imprudente," in 1821—both three-act operas. His genius and artistic power speedily ripened and bore glorious fruit in the production of "La Muette de Portici," "Fré Diavolo," "Gustave," "Le Cheval de Bronze," "Le Domino Noir," "Les Diamants de la Couronne," and many other intermediate and subsequent works, in all upwards of forty. Admirable as some of Auber's grand operas are, it is, perhaps, in the opéra comique that he has most happily developed his own genius and realized the national style, which his, of all French music, is destined the

longest and most worthily to illustrate. The co-operation of Scribe as author of the books of many of the charming works just indicated was a fortunate concurrence of two minds admirably suited for such association. The exquisite melodies of Auber have found an echo in the popular voice all over Europe, while his operas, whence they are derived, must ever charm, when worthily represented, not only by the freshness and genius of the music, but also by the mastery and art displayed in their general construction, and in the beauty and brilliancy of the orchestral details.

The three great modern composers who have especially dignified French opera (Meyerbeer, Rossini, and Auber) have all passed away—the first in 1864, the next in 1868, and in 1871 the last, the only Frenchman by birth of the number. That Auber was largely influenced by the style of Rossini is indisputable. This influence, however, is chiefly traceable in his writing for solo voices during the latter half of his career and the brilliancy of some of his orchestral effects; the great French composer was too thoroughly national in spirit for his style to be largely modified by any infusion of foreign characteristics. Many of his operas will long continue to be esteemed, both as masterpieces of musical art and as especially representative of its composer's genius and nationality.



A PLEASANT FAMILY PARTY.—(DEDICATED TO THE JUVENILES.)



COMMUNISTS PILLAGING THE SACRISTY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. PHILIPPE DU ROULE, PARIS.—(SEE PAGE 372)

Auber, indeed, was intensely French—that is to say, Parisian, for Paris is (or, rather, was) France. It is grievous to know that his bright and genial temperament was clouded and saddened by the unhappy condition of his beloved city, which to him was the world. There only did he care to live; there he passed nearly the whole of his life, which, long as it was, might in all probability have been still prolonged but for the shock occasioned by the horrors which surrounded the last months of his career—a dreadful climax for one whose whole nature was gladness, wit, and humour in their most refined and gracious aspect. In fact, these latter qualities in literature find their counterparts in Auber's music. Many pleasant sayings of his are recorded in illustration of his tendency to look on the sunny side of things—as, for instance, his reply to the wailing inquiry of an aged friend as to whether it was not “a dreadful thing to grow old,” that it was the only means with which he (Auber) was acquainted of enjoying long life. A more prosperous career than his, in point of honours, wealth, and reputation, could not have been desired, although a happier surrounding for its close was to be wished. The works which he has left have placed French musical art in a higher aspect than it had ever before assumed from native composition, and will long render the name of Auber dear to the whole civilised world.

MUSIC.

THE event of which we have chiefly to speak, in connection with Her Majesty's Opera, is the appearance, last Tuesday, of Mdlle. Marimon as the Maria of “La Figlia del Reggimento.” This performance had been more than once announced, and as often delayed; but it was well worth waiting for. Mdlle. Marimon achieved a success such as rarely fails to the lot of any artist—a success due as much to dramatic as to vocal ability. In some respects the young French artist gave a new reading of the part. She brought to it greater wilfulness of manner, a keener sense of humour, more of the passion of a spoilt child, and, generally, drew the character in broader and better defined outline than that to which we are accustomed. Nobody requires to be told that such a Maria comes nearer to the reality, for the very reasons just stated; and last Tuesday's audience promptly recognised its truthfulness. As might be expected, Mdlle. Marimon's great effect was made in the scene where Maria throws off the unaccustomed restraint of “fine-ladyism,” and astounds the Marchioness with the song of the regiment. Nothing could be more piquant, humorous, and well conceived than Mdlle. Marimon's rendering of her part at this crisis of the opera. In brief, she was altogether charming, and the audience ratified her success by unbounded applause. As a vocalist Mdlle. Marimon shone not less brilliantly than in the music of “La Sonnambula.” Her delivery of “Ciascun lo dice” and of “Convien partir”—two very different things, as the reader knows—was simply perfect; while in a valse song by Ricci, which did duty as a finale, she fairly roused the house to enthusiasm, having to repeat it and to appear three times before the curtain. We may now regard Mdlle. Marimon's position in the front rank of public favourites as thoroughly established. She was well supported in “La Figlia” by Mdlle. Bauermeister (Marchioness); Signor Fancelli (Tonio), and Signor Agnesi (Sulipizio). “Les Huguenots” was repeated on Thursday night, and last night Mdlle. Marimon was to appear, for the second time, as Maria.

This week nothing new has been done at the Royal Italian Opera, probably because the last three nights of the week previous witnessed as many revivals: “L'Étoile du Nord” having been produced on Thursday, “L'Africaine” on Friday, and “Un Ballo in Maschera” on Saturday. These representations were for the most part familiar. Everybody knows the Catarina of Madame Patti, for example; and the Selika of Madame Lucca; just as everybody knows the Nelusko and Renato of Signor Graziani, the Riccardo of Signor Mario, and the Danilowitsch of Signor Naudia. Nevertheless, there were a few novel features in the performances, and to them reference is due. The Pietro of “L'Étoile du Nord” was represented admirably by M. Faure, who sang his music in the usual artistic manner, and who acted in the easy yet forcible style which makes his presence on the stage always an attraction. The tent scene, in which Peter gets drunk, and is sobered by the knowledge that he has just sentenced Catarina to be shot, gave M. Faure scope for his dramatic abilities; and, without exaggeration, he took the fullest advantage of it. M. Jourdan, from the Paris Opéra Comique, appeared in his original part of Georgio, and made a favourable impression upon those who conceive, with him, that Georgio should be a very comic and intrusive personage. We cannot dismiss “L'Étoile” without awarding due praise to the mise-en-scène, which was superb. There is nothing new to say about “L'Africaine” beyond a record that Inez found a charming representative in Madame Monbelli, whose singing has always been admired for its purity and grace. We must add, however, that Madame Lucca's Selika obtained as much applause as on former occasions. “Un Ballo” was supported, among others, by Madame Csillag, whose dramatic ability found ample room for display in the rôle of Amelia. As a singer, Madame Csillag's day is gone by; but she still remains a useful artist for occasions when powerful acting is a first consideration. With Madame Vanzini as Oscar, and Mdlle. Scalchi as Ulrica, the female parts of Verdi's opera were in tolerably safe hands. Signor Mario was the same graceful Riccardo he has been from the first, and, even when he cannot sing, the public are content to see him act.

No concerts of public or musical importance have taken place since our last notice, though many concerts have been given. There are two or three, however, which present opportunities for brief remark. The performance of Rossini's “Stabat Mater” at the Crystal Palace, last Saturday, had an interest of its own, arising from the co-operation of such artists as Mdlle. Titians and Madame Albani. But it had also an extraneous interest as testing the arrangements made for the Handel Festival of next week. These proved entirely satisfactory, the new velarium having the effect of making every sound from the orchestra heard at the points farthest removed. We may, consequently, anticipate great results from the festival performances—results out of all comparison with those previously attained.

A very fashionable concert was given in St. James's Hall on Monday afternoon, the performers being the élite of Mr. Mapleson's troupe, aided by Madame Albani and one or two other outsiders. As usual, the programme consisted of familiar excerpts from operas; and, as usual, these appeared to be enjoyed by the crowd present. We, however, can say nothing with regard to them that has not been said before thousand times. Also on Monday, in the same hall, Mr. Boosey gave a ballad concert, supported by the English artists who usually appear at these entertainments. The performance was very successful, and deserved a larger audience.

Prince Poniatowski's concert took place, in St. James's Hall, on Wednesday afternoon, when the distinguished ex-amateur brought forward his new mass in F, with Madame Patti, Madame de Wilhorst, Signor Gardoni, and Mr. Santley, as principal vocalists. The mass is well written throughout, and in many parts effective. We cannot say, however, that it wholly comports with our notions of what sacred music should be. There are entire movements which might be portions of an opera; and though, so far, the Prince-composer sins in good company, he is none the less sinful. The work was very favourably received, as were selections from some of the concert-giver's operas.

POSTE RESTANTE AT THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.—Letters for strangers and visitors to London addressed to the Poste Restante, International Exhibition, London, W., will be delivered from the post and telegraph office in the Albert Hall from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m. on week days. Such letters will be subject to the same regulations and conditions as letters addressed to the Poste Restante at the General Post Office or to the Poste Restante at Charing-cross.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES UNDER THE COMMUNE.

THE following interesting letters from an English medical student have appeared in the *Daily News*:

London, June 10.

“Finding myself in Paris, a medical student, without friends, and cut off from all communication with England, and being unable, moreover, to pursue my studies, I decided, from motives of humanity, to offer myself as a doctor to the Commune, there being at that time in Paris very few persons who were able to fill such an office. I received from the Minister of War, the Citoyen Rossel, a commission to a marching battalion of National Guards, and with them I served during the rise and fall of the Commune. The men in my battalion were for the greater part workmen and small shopkeepers. Most of the other battalions were made up of the same class.

“The Commune at first had few friends; but, the general feeling being of discontent with the rulers they had disowned, the new party, with their brilliant promises, soon gained ground in public opinion, so that in a very short time, by dint of threats and promises, an army of about 150,000 men was formed and equipped. The idea of the better class of people in Paris was that, for a body like the Commune to succeed, it was necessary to have an army of pressed men. The feeling of the Guards was that they were ready to die for the Republic, which they believed could be saved only by the ascendency of the Commune. The disadvantages under which all the battles were fought by those men were truly marvellous. At Neuilly, where I went with my battalion, composed of 1500 men, they were armed only with the *tabatière* and the old *fusil à piston*. Very few of the regiments were armed with the Chassepot rifle. Then, again, others were obliged to go for long periods without food, owing to the mismanagement of their officers, who were elected by universal suffrage. Men who had served five years as privates in the regular army might be elected captains, or even sometimes commanders of regiments. I have known personally many officers who did not know how to write their own names; and, consequently, were obliged sometimes to get help in drawing up despatches and reports from a private, when the other officers were found to be as ignorant as the commander—a very common occurrence. Discipline, of course, from the commencement of the whole affair, was totally out of the question. The men swore at their officers, and everyone gave orders without the slightest deference either to rank or abilities. When we left Paris for the first time for Neuilly, on the night of May 3 (Wednesday), after the efforts of the Freemasons to make peace had entirely failed, the gates were closed upon us, and the canons of the Commune were turned upon their own men, to prevent any attempt at escape. Had any part of the battalion, from cowardice or other motive, made an effort to run away, it would have inevitably been shot down from the ramparts by order of Dombrowski. When we arrived to relieve the 186th Battalion, our own men were drunk, with but few exceptions. Officers and men were intermingled, some shaking hands, some fighting, some swearing, some giving orders. In fact, such a babel I never expect to witness again. I established my ambulance in an old château which was perfectly riddled with balls; and, having nothing but a little lint, some water, my case of instruments, and a few bands, I immediately entered on my functions. The men were for the most part intoxicated when brought in and put upon the dirty floor, which soon became quite muddy with blood and dust. I had about 300 men in my charge, and my assistant was an old barber whom I had prevailed upon to accompany me in my professional capacity.

“I saw many proofs of the dogged adherence of these people to the cause they had espoused. A fellow of about forty years of age was brought to me with a bullet through his lungs. He had not above half an hour to live; and, having been bandaged in a somewhat careless manner by the barber, he was put into a corner of the room on the dirty floor. I proceeded with my work, when I suddenly heard a loud cry behind me. It came from the wounded man, who was trying to raise himself on his hands and knees. I ran to ask him what he wanted, and, after some struggles, he said—‘Citizen, I am a soldier of the Universal Republic, and have fought in '48, and now am dying in '71. Tell my friends that I died crying out ‘Vive la Commune!’’ A few more struggles, and he was dead. Another, a young fellow, a Pole, on Dombrowski's staff, received a bullet in the abdomen, and was brought in about an hour after. He was pretty nearly dead from loss of blood, and was breathing his last. He was, however, attended to, and his brother sent for, who was in the same regiment as himself. When he arrived—a tall, handsome fellow—I took him to see his younger brother, who received him, saying, ‘I shall rejoin my regiment in half an hour; tell Dombrowski that I want a little rest, and that it is not from cowardice I am here.’ The elder man looked at him for one minute in a manner I cannot describe, took his hand, wrung it in great agony, and saying, ‘Yes, come then,’ left the room. I heard his spurs clanking on the floor of the hall, and, before his last footstep died away, his poor brother was dead. A body of men like these Guards, if only properly commanded, might have done wonders. Dombrowski came to see me in the evening, and was delighted to find that our men fought so well. He was a very pleasant fellow, and talked with a great deal of sense. He deplored the want of discipline and management, but hoped that the Commune would be finally victorious.

“Thus we continued day after day until the final struggle. Then the confusion was totally indescribable. We had heard of the disaster at Issy—the men were demoralised. Not knowing what to do, and finding myself the only officer for whom the men had any respect, I gave orders to retreat on Paris to the last barricade, and telegraphed to Dombrowski for reinforcements, as our battalion was now reduced to little more than 720 men. We received orders to retreat into Paris, which we accordingly did, and took up our positions at the Porte du Passy, doomed in a few days to be the gate by which the Versailles troops were to enter. There I saw for the first time the troops called *Volunteers of the Republic*. They were splendid fellows, full of pluck, thoroughly convinced that the Republic was the only thing worth living for, and resolved to fight for it like demons. There were two regiments of them, and they numbered about 2000 men. Out of all these men, 500 only survived the battle, and they were taken prisoners and were shot in the Champ de Mars. The Versailles troops were let into Paris by the remnants of the 64th Battalion. This I know to be a fact. The traitors immediately constituted themselves prisoners, and were shot for their pains in the Chausse de la Muette. I had on the previous evening gone to Paris to give orders at the Intendance for bands, lint, &c., and had slept at my hotel in the heart of the city. I can scarcely describe my surprise when told by the concierge, with a terrified look, not to go out, but to hide in the cellar, for the troops were in Paris, and would be probably in our quarter in an hour from that time. I quickly took my decision. I knew at once that to think of joining my comrades was madness, as they were entirely surrounded by the troops, and were probably long ago shot. I therefore sallied forth, armed with my commission, as a safeguard against the pressgang for making barricades, and forced my way, with the best possible speed, to the Hôtel de Ville. Horrible confusion still prevailed, and I was not even asked by the drunken sentries what my business was. I mounted the grand staircase to the first floor. The place was crammed. No one knew where the officers were. When I entered, a deputy, whom it is prudent not to name, was telling his hearers, with great eloquence, that the time had come for the last struggle of the ‘glorious Commune.’ The speech was listened to with great attention. When he had finished Delescluze was sent for. He told them in a few short sentences that the cause was utterly lost unless the Versailles troops refused to march, and that the only thing that the Commune had to do was to show by example that the men who had urged them to fight and die were not the last to die themselves when the time had come for them to do so.

“For me,” he said, “I feel that my last political struggle against Monarchy and Imperialism has come to an end. I shall die myself, I know; but, gentlemen, I feel convinced that for every drop of mine and of the Commune's blood five men will one day spring forward to avenge us and to establish in future years that which, owing to our backward education, we have failed to establish now.” He finished his speech and died in silence, and then the officers of the Nationals who had demands to lay before the Commune were admitted. When the whole affair had been concluded they heard me. I explained as briefly as possible my object, and was received very kindly by Delescluze, who gave me a commission to the 96th Battalion, then in the Boulevard Malesherbes. I at once hurried off. When near the Madeleine the balls began whistling round my head in a most uncomfortable manner, and my hat received a bullet which passed right through it. However, by dint of sometimes getting behind lamp-posts, and sometimes crawling on my hands and knees, I managed to arrive at my post, where a number of poor fellows were already in waiting for me. I forgot to state that my assistant, the barber, was shot, poor fellow, while helping the wounded at the barricade in the Rue du Bac.

“After passing a most miserable night, with nothing to eat, I retired with the battalion, which had lost many men, and returned to the Hôtel de Ville with two English students in physiology whom I had met in Paris. We were received with open arms by the members of the Commune, and immediately had a commission given us to establish an ambulance—I as doctor in chief with two assistants—at the Northern Railway station, whither we at once proceeded. Before, however, relating my adventures there, I will give you a short sketch in my next letter of the attitude of the Parisians at the time of the entry of the troops.”

London, June 12.

“During the reign of the Commune I never even in a whisper heard a man speak against that body. On the contrary, the crowded boulevards, when the Garde Nationale were passing, resounded with the cries of ‘Vive la Commune!’ and ‘Vive la République!’ On the morning of the disaster, however, the groups on the boulevards were very anxious; they seemed afraid to express an opinion, and the more timid and less warlike of them hurried to their homes, there to hide until the contest had been decided; others more determined acceded to the demands of the National Guards, and went to work right manfully in erecting barricades. On the morning of Monday there were not above four barricades in the interior of Paris; but by ten o'clock the streets were already impassable. Men in blouses; gentlemen in frock-coats; women in tattered clothes, and women in silk dresses, were alike called into requisition, and worked like mad things in putting up stones and bags of sand and mud. The Tour St. Jacques was crowded with men digging up the earth to make barricades. Little boys quite distinguished themselves, working with spades and pickaxes as big as themselves, shelling all the time the ‘Chant du Départ’ and the ‘Marsillais.’ Large proclamations, admirably worded, were stuck up in divers parts of the city, exhorting the citizens to do their duty and kill as many of the troops as possible, while others assisted the *chefs de bataille* to requisition as much food and drink as was required. The Tuilleries presented a very curious appearance. Cannon crowded the beautiful gardens; and I was obliged to walk in the middle of the road, for mattresses, chairs, looking-glasses, &c., were being poured in a shower from the windows, and immediately transformed into barricades. Cannon were strewed all over the place, and every face I met on my way seemed filled with expectation and determination. National Guards walked down the streets, and enforced the opening and examination of the windows, and cellars, and rooms, lest enemies should be concealed. The roar of musketry and the roar of cannon, the shouts of men, the laughter and singing of boys, the clang of pickaxes, and the screaming of the women as they exhorted the men to work, formed a concert which had a sort of terrible fascination.

“On the other side of the water terrible events were taking place. The Nationals were already fighting among themselves; the party which had been pressed had turned against the men who were fighting from conviction, and many had already been shot by their own comrades. As I passed the Pont St. Michel I was accosted by a fellow who insisted on my aiding in establishing the barricade across the Quai St. Michel, which was every moment expected to be attacked. I remonstrated in vain, and was triumphantly marched off, and threatened to be shot if I did not work sturdy. Luckily, I encountered an old acquaintance, a member of the Commune, who, although rather the worse for drink, recognised me, and had me released. The Rue St. Martin and the Faubourg St. Denis presented the same appearances as before described. I retired to bed that night (for the first time for two days) thoroughly worn out. The next morning I proceeded once more to the Hôtel de Ville, which this time presented, if possible, a still worse appearance than before. Men were sleeping on the floor, and a horrible smell of stale tobacco and strong French brandy pervaded the place. There was no sentinel before the door, and I found myself master of the ceremonies in the Department of Finances, Food, and Clothing. I went to the council chamber, and found but three members, who told me I had better see Delescluze. I went to see him accordingly. He was sitting in a large room, with his head on his hand, gazing into vacancy. He seemed not to understand what I said, and only replied, ‘My dear child, do as you will; take what you want.’ Considering that he had been horribly pestered by all the drunken officers and men, I sat down at a table and wrote a formal demand for food for a body of men who had been at La Chapelle for two days with nothing but a biscuit apiece and some brandy. However, no one attended to my order; one referred me to another, and this other to some one else, until I was obliged to give up all hope of getting anything to eat. The men at the Hôtel de Ville seemed utterly reckless of what happened to them, and were prepared to do, as I heard them all say, anything rather than be taken by the regulars. The large space in front of the Hôtel de Ville was filled with Gatling guns and with National Guards, with anything but a contented look upon their countenances.

“I come back to the point at which I concluded my last letter. When I arrived at the Northern station with my two assistants I found the men in confusion, and for the most part intoxicated. There were already a few wounded, and I immediately set to work to establish my ambulance. The battalion I found was from Belleville, and consequently they were very good fighting men, though horrible blackguards and drunkards. The commander especially attracted my attention. I found upon inquiry that he was a ragpicker, and had commanded a barricade in '48. He was armed with a chassepot, and was fighting at the barricade at the Rue Dunkerque with great gusto. He had much pluck, and seemed quite pleased to be where he was. He came to let me feel his gun, and assured me—for it was red hot—that he had fired 290 cartridges in about five hours. At about ten o'clock at night we were left to our own devices by the guards, who were obliged to run and leave us to look after their wounded. We were admirably seconded by all the railway officials and porters, who went to fetch the wounded from the streets, and brought them to be attended to. The situation was not an enviable one. The rooms, or rather warehouses, had glass roofs, and the bullets came whistling about our ears, killing some of the wounded and re-wounding others. After a night passed in great fear of never seeing day again, we were roused (for we had gone to sleep from sheer fatigue) by the entrance of the troops, who came firing into the place, as if they wished to provoke a reply from the Nationals, who they thought were concealed about the station. After being taken prisoners we were ordered to be shot by the Lieutenant of the 85th battalion of the regulars; but fortunately a doctor whom I happened to know well interceded for us, and we were permitted to stop for further examination by the Grand Prévôt. That examination we, of

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